TUESDAY
March 28, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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G20 भारत 2023 INDIA
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

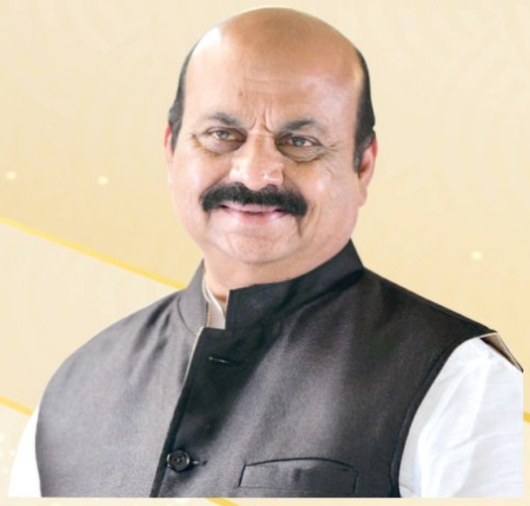
सत्यमेव जयते

KARNATAKA DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

"PM-MITRA mega textile parks will boost the textiles sector in line with 5F (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) vision."



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Double Engine Government
Heralding a New Era in Karnataka's Textile Sector

- Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park (PM-MITRA) is being established over an area of 1000 acres in Kalaburagi at a cost of Rs. 1800 crore.
- With an expected investment inflow of Rs. 10,000 crore, it will generate employment for up to one lakh youth of Kalyana Karnataka Region, generating revenues of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 5 years.
- The Park will house the complete textile value chain, from farm to foreign with special focus on spinning, weaving and technical textiles.
- The Park will have a self-contained township promoting the walk to work concept.

Launch of
PM-MITRA PARK

BY

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri Piyush Goyal
Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution & Textiles

TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH 2023 | 10:00 AM | KALABURAGI, KARNATAKA

In the August Presence of

Dr. M. Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Kalaburagi

Smt. Darshana V Jardosh
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways & Textiles

Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani
Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and District in-charge Minister, Kalaburagi District

Shri Shankar B. Patil Munenakoppa
Hon'ble Minister for Handloom & Textiles, Sugarcane Development and Sugar

Make in India – Build for the World

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DIRECTIVE TO CENTRE

SC poser on Bills with Telangana Governor

SOUTH » PAGE 5

NCF LESSON PLAN

NCERT textbooks set for revamp

NEWS » PAGE 10

LOSS TO KUNO

One Namibian cheetah dies of kidney ailment

NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT

Decoding India's poor COVID-19 booster coverage

Numbers point to public complacency

OPINION » PAGE 7

THAKUR'S TAKE

Promote women's sports, says Minister

SPORT » PAGE 15

BJP MLA arrested in bribery case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Monday arrested Madal Virupakshappa, BJP MLA, hours after his anticipatory bail was dismissed by the Karnataka High Court.

A police team intercepted Mr. Virupakshappa's vehicle at Kyatasandra toll gate in Tumakuru district and arrested him.

The Lokayukta had approached the HC seeking cancellation of his bail petition; the matter was taken up by the court and his plea was dismissed. The order was out by around 6 p.m., and the police team tracked Mr. Virupakshappa at Channagiri in Davangere, where he was to address a meeting. However, he allegedly evaded the Lokayukta team but was later intercepted at the toll gate.

Mr. Virupakshappa was brought to the Lokayukta office, and he would be produced in court to seek extension of his custody.

Trinamool attends Cong.-led protest, but Uddhav's party aloof

18 parties join dinner meeting called by Congress chief; Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) skips it citing Rahul's comments against Savarkar

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In a zero-sum game, on the first day of Parliament after disqualification of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Opposition ranks on Monday gained an ally in the Trinamool Congress, which has so far stayed away from all joint Opposition events, but lost an ally, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), which, irked by Mr. Gandhi's "denigrating" comments on Savarkar, pulled back.

Trinamool MPs – Prasun Banerjee from the Lok Sabha and Jawhar Sircar from the Rajya Sabha – participated in the daily strategy meeting hosted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. In the afternoon, they also participated in the Opposition march from the Gandhi statue in Parliament to Vijay Chowk.

United for a cause: Opposition MPs protesting against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi, outside Parliament on Monday. PTI

And the duo also attended the evening meeting called again by Mr. Kharge, inviting all floor leaders of both Houses of Parliament for dinner at his residence. A total of 18 Opposition parties attended the dinner meeting. Later, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the 18 parties had resolved in "one voice" to continue their campaign against the Modi government for "destroying democracy and subverting institutions".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

PPF, Sukanya Samriddhi interest rate hike unlikely

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Investors in the popular small saving schemes Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA), whose rates have not been hiked since January 2019, are unlikely to get higher returns anytime soon, a top government official has indicated.

This is because the government is no longer in complete agreement with the Shyamala Gopinath Committee formula adopted in April 2016 to reset small savings interest rates every quarter in line with the prevailing yields on government bonds of comparable tenures.

The last time the PPF and SSA interest rates were tweaked was when they were slashed sharply in April 2020.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

SC issues notice to Gujarat, Centre in Bilkis Bano case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday indicated it will primarily focus on the question of Gujarat's jurisdiction to prematurely release 11 men sentenced to life for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family members during the 2002 riots.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna wondered whether the State followed uniform standards while granting early remission to the 11 men when murder convicts tend to otherwise languish in prison for years.

The court was hearing writ petitions separately filed by Ms. Bano and others, including CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra. The court issued formal notice to Gujarat, the Union government and the released convicts. It listed the case for final hearing on April 18.

A protest against the premature release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. FILE PHOTO

Advocate Shobha Gupta, for Ms. Bano, submitted that the jurisdiction to consider any plea for premature release was with Maharashtra and not Gujarat.

She referred to Section 432(7)(b) which said the "appropriate government" would be the "State within which the offender is sentenced".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

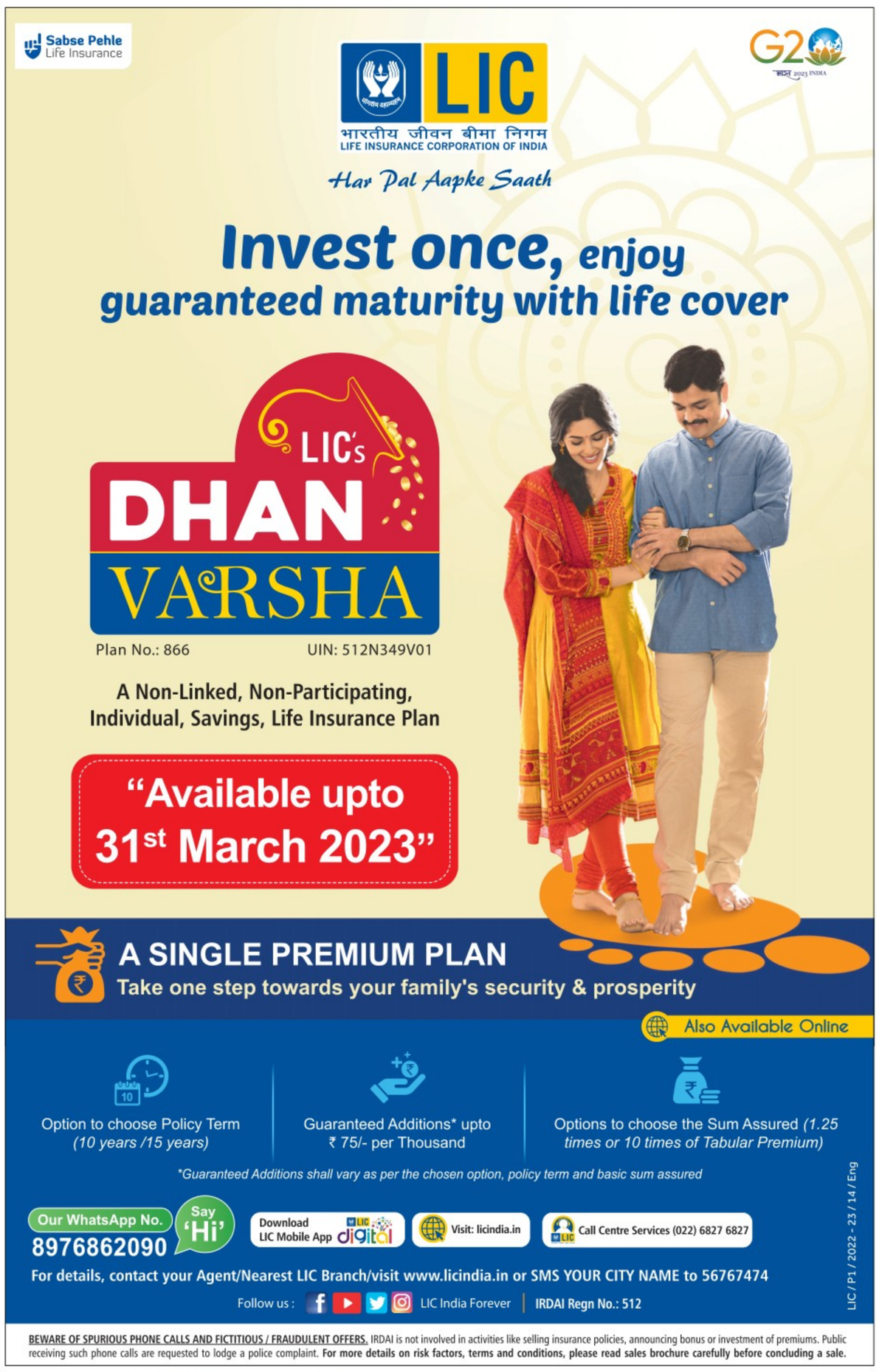
NEARBY

Internal quota: Banjaras' protest turns violent

HASSAN
Tension prevailed at Shikaripur in Shivamogga district on Monday as protest opposing the internal reservation among Scheduled Castes turned violent, forcing the police to resort to lathi-charge.

» Page 4

Union Bank of India
VYOM Mobile App
Union Trade Current Account
Suitable for frequent Foreign Outward Remittance
MAB maintenance as low as ₹1 lakh
Concession on Forex Transaction charges and fine rates
*TSC Apply
Good people to bank with
www.unionbankofindia.co.in



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Funds spent on preservation of monuments and sites

340.92 In ₹ crore. Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy informed Parliament about the funds used on 3,696 centrally protected monuments and sites during the last four years. In 2021-22, ₹269.57 crore was spent, ₹260.83 crore in 2020-21 and ₹435.39 crore in 2019-20. PTI

Rohingya refugees who arrived on a beach in Indonesia

184 Rohingya Muslims. Aceh Police Chief Andy Rahmansyah informed that authorities were collecting more information and giving medical aid to the refugees. More than 500 Rohingya refugees landed in Indonesia's Aceh in 2022. Most recently, 71 people landed at a beach in the Aceh Besar district in February. AP

Child labourers rescued in Delhi since January as raids go on

200 children. The Delhi government counsel has been granted four weeks by the High Court to submit an updated status report. The court was hearing a petition by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan in the aftermath of a factory fire in Anaj Mani that killed over 40 people, including minors, in December 2019. PTI

Four projects of the Steel Authority of India Ltd facing delays

2,338 worth of projects in ₹ crore. The reasons for delay include delayed placement of orders, supply of materials/equipment and on account of poor performance of contractors/ sub-contractors, Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia informed Parliament. PTI

The number of jetties being developed by the govt. along Ganga

60 jetties. While inaugurating four jetties, the Union Minister of State for Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur said that the Centre was planning to develop 118 waterways along with the jetties to lower transportation and strengthen the economy. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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For the right of dissent: Congress party activists hold placards at a silent protest in support of Rahul Gandhi in Mumbai on March 26. AP

The disqualification conundrum

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi's removal from Parliament has raised some legal questions about the immediate loss of membership from the Lok Sabha on conviction of a crime which attracts a prison term of two years or more

LETTER & SPIRIT

K. Venkataramanan

The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from his membership of the Lok Sabha, which also means that he is not qualified to enter an electoral contest for a period that may potentially run up to eight years, has set off a debate on whether criminal conviction should entail immediate loss of a serving legislator's membership. A petition has already been filed questioning the relevant provision in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, that prescribes disqualification on conviction for crimes that attract a prison term of two years and more.

Past protection

There is considerable discussion now as to whether the earlier protection enjoyed by serving legislators from immediate disqualification must be restored. Section 8(4) of the RPA, 1951, was struck down in 2013 by the Supreme Court in a landmark verdict in *Lily Thomas versus Union of India*. Soon after the judgment, the then UPA regime sought to bring an ordinance to restore the legal position in favour of sitting MP's, MLA's and MLC's. However, it ran into political opposition as detractors said it was aimed at protecting UPA leaders such as Lalu Prasad Yadav from disqualification on conviction for corruption. Many have highlighted the fact that Mr. Gandhi himself was one of those critics; he famously tore up a copy of the draft ordinance to display his opposition to the move, which he considered to be an attempt to shield the corrupt. However, it is a moot question whether the ordinance or the Act that may have replaced it later would have survived judicial scrutiny.

This is because Section 8(4) of the Act was declared unconstitutional on the ground that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to enact it. The apex Court had cited Article 102 of the Constitution (and Article 191, the corresponding article for State Assembly and Legislative Council members) to lay down that Parliament was mandated to enact a common law prescribing what sort of situation would disqualify a person for both 'being chosen as' and 'being a member' of Parliament. Sub-section (4) of Section 8 said the disqualification will not take effect for three months for anyone who is an MP or an MLA on the date of conviction, and if during that period, an appeal is filed, the mere fact of filing the appeal will operate as a stay on disqualification until its disposal. The Court ruled that Parliament was not competent to have separate provisions for these two situations, as the constitutional mandate was to enact a single law. By creating one provision for the immediate disqualification of ordinary citizens and another one for deferred disqualification of legislators, Parliament had violated the constitutional mandate.

The contrary view

During the hearing, the government defended the protection clause for sitting lawmakers with two arguments, the first of which was based on practical considerations. It contended that a regime may be surviving on a wafer-thin majority, and immediate disqualification of a member or two from the date of conviction may result in loss of majority and change of regime. It was necessary for the purposes of democracy to prevent the situation.

The second consideration was that immediate disqualification may entail the conduct of a by-election. In the event of the conviction being set aside by an appellate court after a while, the by-election's outcome cannot be reversed, and the exonerated former member will have no legal recourse for restoration of membership.

The second argument was on legal grounds: the government submitted that Parliament was not really making two different provisions concerning disqualification while enacting Section 8. What the protection clause envisaged was mere postponement of the time from which the disqualification comes into effect in case of serving legislators. It did not mean that lawmakers were subject to a different kind of disqualification for 'being chosen as' and 'being members'.

The Supreme Court rejected these arguments. It went on to hold that the remedy for someone suffering immediate disqualification was to file an appeal and seek a stay on conviction. It clarified that the disqualification will cease to operate from the date of stay of conviction by an appellate court. This has given rise to a different question altogether, one that may be relevant today in respect of those suffering disqualification as on date.

The relevancy of the date of stay

In most cases, there is no stay of conviction, as the Supreme Court has often said only suspension of sentence and grant of bail, pending appeal, were normal remedies, and stay of conviction should be given only rarely. The examples of political leaders who lost their membership of the legislature and went on to either succeed or lose in their appeal did not create any major controversy. For instance, the late J. Jayalalithaa, whose conviction for corruption resulted in loss of her office and membership in 2014, failed to get any stay of conviction. Therefore, a by-election was held after her seat was declared vacant. She succeeded in appeal before the Karnataka High Court and had to re-enter the Assembly and regain her office as Chief Minister only through a by-election.

However, Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal, who was convicted and sentenced to a 10-year prison term in January, managed to get a stay of conviction from the Kerala High Court. However, by then, the Lok Sabha secretariat had notified that his seat was vacant. The Election Commission even fixed a date for the by-election, but when he challenged this in the Supreme Court, the Commission said it would honour the court's stay order. Yet, Mr. Faizal's Lok Sabha membership is yet to be restored. The probable reason is that the date of conviction is the date on which the disqualification comes into effect, but the stay of conviction operates only from the day the stay is granted. This means that during the intervening period, the member did suffer disqualification. Therefore, can the membership be restored or restituted with retrospective effect from the date of conviction?

Possible solutions

A simple way out is that the secretariat of the respective Houses should give effect to the order of stay on conviction fully, by restoring the legislator's membership without further ado, until the appeal is disposed of.

Another step that can be adopted as a matter of practice is for the secretariat to wait until the convicted member approaches higher courts for stay of conviction, and notify a vacancy only if the application is rejected.

However, there may be some scope for the Supreme Court to re-examine some of the issues involved. Mr. Faizal's case provides an opportunity to decide whether the legislative secretariat should wait for an appellate remedy before declaring a seat vacant.

The issue of whether the President, or Governor in the case of State legislators, should formally declare a person disqualified as required under Article 103 and Article 192 instead of using the 'automatic' disqualification route is also open.

THE GIST

The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from his membership of the Lok Sabha has set off a debate on whether criminal conviction should entail immediate loss of a serving legislator's membership. A petition has already been filed questioning the relevant provision in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, that prescribes disqualification on conviction for crimes that attract a prison term of two years and more.

Section 8(4) of the RPA, 1951, which was the earlier protection enjoyed by serving legislators from immediate disqualification, was struck down in 2013 by the SC.

The government defended the protection clause for sitting lawmakers. It contended that a regime may be surviving on a wafer-thin majority, and immediate disqualification of a member may result in loss of majority and change of regime.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363, email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/JALADHAREPSR(PART-2): 2022-23/3507 Dated:24-03-2023

Short Term Tender Notification NO-24/2022-23 (Two Cover System) (e-procurement portal)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for the work of MVS TO IDENTIFIED RURAL HABITATIONS IN MADDURU, MALAVALLI, MANDYA & SRIRANGAPATNA TALUKS IN MANDYA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA THROUGH D.B.O.T MODE UNDER JJM from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting **Date:29-03-2023 Time:11:30 TO 12:30 PM (Place:Office of the Chief Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Bangalore),** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:-**10-04-2023. Time:05:00 PM,** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:-**11-04-2023 Time :05:05 PM,** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening:-**17-04-2023 Time:11:00 AM**, More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or from this office during working hours.Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/844/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
O/o. Executive Engineer, R.D.W. & S. Division Chikodi
Telephone : 08338-275101. E-mail : ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

No.: EE/RDW&S/CKD/JJM/2022-23/86/4858 Date : 24-03-2023

On behalf of this office above reference letter No. 4858, Date : 24-03-2023 we had called the Tender through e-procurement under 2 cover system (Technical bid and Financial bid) on DBOT basis the below prescribed work. All details and tender conditions are available in e-procurement website. (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) only.

1)	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	29-03-2023 at 11:00 am O/o Chief Engineer Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, 'E'Block, 1st Floor, KHB Building, K.G. Road, Bangalore
2)	Last date & Time for Tender Submission	05-04-2023 upto 16:00 pm
3)	Date of Technical Bid opening	06-04-2023 upto 17:30 pm
4)	Date of Financial Bid opening	10-04-2023 at 11:00 am

Sl. No.	Scheme Name	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD	Period for Completion (Including monsoon)
1.	Augmentation of Multi-Village Water Supply Scheme of Kakamari and other 13 villages in Athani Taluka of Belagavi District under Jal Javeen Mission (Indent No. 61478)	2897.00	20,18,000/-	11 Months

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**
R.D.W & S Division, Chikodi

DIPO/BGM/2171/2022-23

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-73/114/2022-23 Date: 24.03.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work **: Providing Street lights to the roads of Kotur Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District.**

Last date for submission of bids is: **21.04.2023** upto **04:30** pm

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5484/Zen/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director Education, Head Office BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No: BBMP/2022-23/IND791 Date: 27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites tender for the supply of black shoes with socks, canvas shoes with socks, bags for the BBMP schools and colleges for the academic year 2023-24, from eligible bidders.

Following are the Events of Bid Process:

1.	Tender reference number for: 1) Tender for the supply of black shoes with socks to the BBMP schools, for the academic year 2023-24 2) Tender for the supply of canvas shoes with socks to the BBMP schools and PU colleges, for the academic year 2023-24 3) Tender for the supply of school bags to the BBMP schools and colleges, for the academic year 2023-24	1) BBMP/2022-23/IND791 2) BBMP/2022-23/IND792 3) BBMP/2022-23/IND793
2.	Date of Commencement of Down-load of Document from eprocurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in	From **27.03.2023** Onwards
3.	Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement	**30.03.2023** upto **5:00** pm
4.	Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting:	**30.03.2023** at **11:00** am at the following venue: Office of the Senior Assistant Director Education, Head Office BBMP, Bengaluru.
5.	Last Date and Time for Uploading Tender in e-procurement portal	**10.04.2023** upto **5:00** pm
6.	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids	**11.04.2023** at **5:10** pm
7.	Address for Communication:	Office of the Senior Assistant Director, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-22112585/ 080-22975824/080-22975728 Email: eoeducation@yahoo.in

1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the Website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** 2) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director, BBMP

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No. 5
Ron-582209 Ph & Fax : 08381-267247 Email : knnldiv5@gmail.com
No:KNNL/MRBC/DB/Tender /2022-23/1000 Date : 27.03.2023

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Div No:05 Ron, the under under-signed invites tender on percentage basis from KPWD Class-I Contractors. The Tenderers are required to upload in Two cover both Technical bid and Financial bid, Technical bid should contain the documents as mentioned in Detailed Notification and Financial bid of those bidders who have paid the requisite EMD & fulfill the conditions contained in para1.1 will be opened. Table showing the details of work put to tender is as under;

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORK PUT TO E-TENDERING

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate amount put to tender Rs.(In Lakhs) (Exluding GST)	EMD Rs including GST	Tender Proce-ssing fee	Stipulated period for Completion	Class of Contra-ctors
1)	"Construction of Compound Wall, CC Road and Providing Basic Aminities in Nagadevathe Temple in survey no 280/1 of Hirehandigol Village of GadagTaluk of Naragund Constituency" (I No-36607)	**84.69**	**2,00,000.00**	As per e - Procure-ment portal	6 Months (Including monsoon)	KPWD Class-I

Issue and submission of E-tender documents: (1) The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from **27.03.2023** at 11.00am in the website http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in / eportal/index.seam link e-tender document and after payment (non-refundable) towards the transaction/tender processing fee. While applying the contractors can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal (2) The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **31.03.2023** at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No.05 Ron The queries if any are to be sent not later than on **31.03.2023** till 5.00 PM by the intending bidders through e-mail to the Executive Engineer (the e-mail id for sending queries is knnldiv5@gmail.com) (3) Last Date for Submission of completed e tendering documents is **05.04.2023** up to 4.00 PM. (4) First Electronic Document (Technical BID) will be opened on 06.04.2023 at 5.00 PM in the Presence of the Bidders who wish to participate. (5) Second Electronic Document (financial Bid) of the successful bidders who qualify in the technical bid wil be opened on **11.04.2023** at 11.00 AM or after approval to the technical bid from the competent authority. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http;// eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ eportal/lines.seam and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Inch)
KNNL, MRBCC Division, No-5, Ron

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/823/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice to the general that my client namely **Venkat Rao.S** and **Jayanthi V** has entered into an Agreement of Sale dated 17-03-2023 as Document Ref No SUBIN-KAKACRSFL081288753444B799V with its owners namely **H Lakshmi Narasimaiah, Chandra, Gangadhara, M H Krishnamurthy** in respect of the schedule property situated at Bangalore North Thalluk, Yeshwanthapura Hobli , Malagala Grama, Present BBMP Kottigepalya Ward No 73, Assessment No 2/2, Site No 5, which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property from his vendor as mentioned above and any objections or claims in any nature whatsoever for or against such purchase shall be addressed to the office of the counsel mentioned below within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and in the absence of such objections and claims my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property located at Bangalore North Thalluk, Yeshwanthapura Hobli , Malagala Grama Present BBMP Kottigepalya ward no 73 , assessment No 2/2, Site No 5, East to West 60-00 Feet North to South 46-00 Feet total 2760 Sqft which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder.

East by: Road
West by: Some other Property
North by: Site No 6
South by: Site No 4

Mr. V.Mahesha
Advocate,No. 18, 2nd A Main ,Ittamadu BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085
Ph No 9945017272
Email : mbd2573@gmail.com

Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009. Tel: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/31/2021-22 Date: 27-03-2023

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri. Vinay. R S/o Sri. M. Rajashekaraiah and others have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No:5/2 Extent 0Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:5/6 Extent 0Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:5/7 Extent 0Acre- 08Guntas, Sy.No:5/8 Extent 0Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:5/9 Extent 0Acre-07Guntas and Sy.No:6/4 Extent OAcre-19/½ Guntas totally measuring 01Acre-15½. Guntas of Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

(1) By developing the layout in the above said land, the poor and middle class people will get the sites for reasonable price. **(2)** During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers. **(3)** Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the layout in the above said land. **(4)** By planning and developing this layout the public will be benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks, etc.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bangalore

DIPR/CP/RO5470/AAPL/2022-23

Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hyderabad Road, Raichur -584102 Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.com Email info@rims-raichur.com

NO.RIMS/SUP/TEND/CHEM/105/2022-23 Dated : 24.03.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Various Chemicals, Glasswares & Consumables to RIMS Teaching Hospital Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

1)Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from: 27.03.2023 2) Last Date for Queries on or before: 04 .04.2023 @ 05.00 PM 3)Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before: 10.04.2023 upto 5.00 PM 4)Technical bid will be opened on:12.04.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also from this Institution web site www.rims-raichur.com

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences Raichur

DIP/Raichur/779/KSMC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17044/32/2022/2022-23
C No : 957833 **Date: 27.03.2023**

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mineral block"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka is conducting auction of Mining Lease for the following iron ore block.

Sl. No.	Name of the block	District	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha.)	Estimated Resources (in MMT)	Tender fee
1.	Block No.04 (H.R Gaviappa -2483)	Ballari	Iron ore	40.04	05.32	INR 5,00,000/- + 18% GST

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed block are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd **(http://www.mstcecommerce.com/ auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).**

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited **(http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ mlcl/index.jsp).** For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd as per the fees mentioned in the table for each block.

The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself under Reverse Charge Mechanism. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka /MSTC.

The sale of tender document shall commence from **30 March 2023.** Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **02 May 2023.** Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is **08 May 2023** (upto 17:00 hours IST). Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka by **17:00** hours IST on **08 May 2023.**

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/CP/5483/Zenkar/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR

Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/PB-5/Tender/2022-23/2603 Date: 24.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(DBOT/BOT/PPP/OTHERS COVER)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the works above Rs. 66.71 Crore (01 Nos of work) as per KW-4 Standard Tender Bid Document under H/A MVS for the year 2022-2023 (DBOT/BOT/PPP/Others Cover) through e-Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only. The KTPP Act shall be followed. **TIME SCHEDULE**: 1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal: 24.03.2023 to 13.04.2023. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting at CE RDWS Office, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. 27.03.2023 Time 11.30 AM, 3) Last date for submission of bids: 13.04.2023 Time : 5.00 PM, 4) Date & Time of Technical bid opening: 15.04.2023 Time : 11.00 AM, 5) Date & Time of Financial bid opening After Technical bid Approval

For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDWS&S Division Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/553/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPC Division No-1, Bidar.

No. KNNL/EE/KPC1/2022-23/ 1715 Date: 24/03/2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(ONLY THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM).
TWO COVER SYSTEM

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, K P C Division No.1, Bidar in 4701 Two cover system (cover II), from the contractors/firm/company enrolled under KNNL and KPWD Class-I & above of Karnataka State who fulfill the qualifying conditions, for the details mentioned below.

WorksDetails: The eligibility of contractor (KPWD Civil Class-I) amount put to tender Rs. 372.87 lakhs (Three Crores Seventy Two lakhs eighty Seven thousand and EMD amount Rs. 6.60/- (Six lakhs Sixty thousand only)

Scheduled Date :a) Access to the e-tender document : From 24/03/2023 to 31/03/2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.b) Pre-bid meeting :27/03/2023 at 16.00, @ Chief Engineer KNNL, IPZ , Kalaburagi c) last date to submit tender document :31/03/2023 upto 17.00 Hrs. d)Opening of Technical Bid (Two Cover) Opening:01/04/2023 @ 17.30 Hrs. e)Opening of Financial (Two Cover) Bid date:03/04/2023 @ 17.01 Hrs.

All details & information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours (Phone No- 08482-226490) and visit website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, KPC, Division no-1, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/547/MC&A/2022-23

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Ashok Kumar Adinarayanan alias Ashokkumar Adinarayanan S/o Adinarayanan L, residing at Flat No: 1602, Calypso Tower , Salarpuria Sattva Cadenza , Hosur Main Road, Kudlu Gate, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560068, have changed my name to Ashok Adinarayanan Veda for all purposes in future

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMRUTHA M.A, W/o Umesh Bhimana Madesh, r/at Door No.69, Near Aralikatte, 1st Phase, Gayathripuram 2nd Stage, Mysore-570019, have changed my name from Amrutha M.A. to Amrutha Umesh beore Sri.Shivakumara, Advocate & Notary, Mysore, vide affidavit dated: 15.03.2023.

THANKSGIVING

THANK YOU Lord Infant Jesus for curing me of High Fever that I got recently when I prayed to you. You are really a God who answers to our prayers. Yours faithfully Justin Prabhu.

Altered flowering season, hailstorm hit mango growers hard a third time

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

N. Chinnappa Reddy, a farmer, showing damaged mango at Srinivaspura in Kolar district . BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Mango crop damaged after heavy rain and hailstorm in Srinivaspura in Kolar district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

While those who love mangoes wait an entire year to savour the king of fruits, the growers toil an entire year for the harvest. However, for three years now, weather conditions have wreaked havoc and brought down the yield to about 50% of its average quantity. This year, even though the season has not started, non-uniform flowering is already threatening the quality of the fruit.

The Hindu visited Srinivasapura taluk, in the heart of the major mango-growing district of the State, Kolar, and found that most mango trees had flowering problems. The hailstorm, which lashed the taluk between March 16 and 18, added to the problems as 90% of fruit in some fields were hit, making it unfit for consumption or even pulping and juicing.

Flowering time

"The flowering should happen in December, ideally. Then by the end of March, we start getting our full-sized fruit. This year, we saw flowering happening again in January, February and even in March. This leads to nutritional imbalance in the tree which ultimately results in the dropping of already formed fruits," explained Neelaturu Chinnappa Reddy, president, Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

The district of Kolar accounts for more than 60% of mangoes produced in the State. In Srinivasapura, mangoes are cultivated on close to 55,000 hectares of land. Prior to the unprecedented hailstorm, the yield here had come down to 30% and now, the farmers are only expecting 10-15% of their regular yield. "If it was an on year, we used to harvest around 10 lakh tonnes of fruit here, but this time, we might only be able to get 2-3 tonnes of mangoes," Mr. Reddy added.

The farmers said that their countless complaints to the Horticulture Department and the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) scientists have gone in vain. They said that all the fertilisers and pesticides suggested by the experts have made no difference on ground.

"Even in an average orchard, a farmer has to spend ₹1.5 lakh on one round of pesticides. We need to spray several such rounds. Mother nature has not been kind to us and we have been facing these flowering problems for the last few years. Experts advice from their campuses but do not come to our farms. We need to take pictures and send them, and more often than not, pictures cannot convey the problems as they are," said Shivakumar. B., a former MNC employee who is now a mango cultivator.

Even though there was some blossom blight attack in the beginning, the farmers had still anticipated a good yield this year. Then came the flowering problem. The unexpected hailstorms came as the ultimate blow and shattered their hopes. "We had not heard of hailstorms during this season ever. It only comes once the monsoon sets in. From one malgoba tree I would get around half a tonne of fruits usually. But the hailstorm destroyed almost all the fruits," remarked Srinivas Reddy, another mango grower.

Officials of the Horticulture Department acknowledged that the problem has been there for a few years now and figuring out solutions has been tougher as natural factors are causing problems.

"I have instructed our Agriculture University scientists to visit the spot. Inspection is also taking place for providing compensation," said Rajender Kumar Kataria, Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department. He also said, "I have asked the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to help us out as they are studying similar problems in Uttar Pradesh where there are weather variations too. We are looking at permanent solutions for the flowering problems." Similar problems were also reported from other mango growing regions in the State including Chickballapur, Mandya and Ramanagara districts.

First weekday: Techies, students happy with metro link to IT corridor

They want the entire Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line opened soon, and first and last-mile connectivity improved. Though feeder buses are running, passengers encounter difficulties

Arvind Kumar
Pavana J.
BENGALURU

Commuters waiting to board the metro at Whitefield station on Monday. N. RAVICHANDRAN

The new metro line between Krishnarajapura and Whitefield saw its first-weekday crowd on Monday (March 27), as working professionals and students thronged metro stations during the peak hours. Employees were happy that they could reach their workspace in the IT corridor without the usual commuting hassles.

They demanded that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) expedite the pending work between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura.

"I used to spend about ₹3,000-4,000 on fuel every month. Now I don't have to take my bike anymore. I wish more people use the metro," said Akash, an employee at a private firm.

Keerthi S., a medical college student who travels from Nagarbhavi to Whitefield every day, said, "For every Bengalurean, the dream is to travel to Whitefield faster without traffic gridlock and save money. Now, that's possible, at around ₹70." Earlier, she used to spend around ₹300-400 every day on travel.

Feeder buses

The missing link between Krishnarajapura and Baiyappanahalli stations was yet again pointed out as a problem. Even though feeder buses were running, passengers encountered difficulties. Some people felt the authorities could have waited for a couple of more months and opened the entire stretch in one go.

The travel time in feeder buses was said to vary from 15 to 30 minutes depending on the traffic. "The routes are confusing, and the buses are never on time. But since it's been only a couple of days, I hope it will get better. It is more convenient than hailing a cab or auto, but they should work on making them more punctual and accessible," said Padma N., a software engineer.

Ridership figures

More than 27,000 passengers travelled on the new line on the first day, and the number dropped to around 19,000 on Monday. "On the first day, many travellers were there just because of curiosity. On Monday, it was mostly regular travellers. The number will gradually increase in the coming days," an official said.

Arumugam, a daily wage worker travelling from Kengeri to Whitefield daily, said, "Travelling was a burden. I had to change many buses, and if buses were not available, I had to hail an auto which was expensive." He said now he no longer has to worry, and he is able to reach his workplace easily and on time."

BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez said pending work near Benniganahalli is progressing well, and the agency is confident of starting commercial operations on the entire line of 15 km by June.

Bike taxi riders stage protest, demand action against autorickshaw drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Riders from Bike Taxi Association of Bengaluru, staging a protest at Freedom Park, condemning the attacks on bike taxi riders, and demanding police protection, in the city on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Demanding action against autorickshaw drivers allegedly harassing bike taxi riders in the city, the Bike Taxi Association of Bengaluru staged a protest at Freedom Park on Monday. Protesters demanded that Karnataka government protect the interest of riders, while alleging that auto drivers were involved in not only verbal abuse, but also physical abuse such as snatching their mobile phones and helmets.

Continued skirmishes

In the city, taxi aggregators offering bike taxi services and auto drivers have been at loggerheads for several years. Auto drivers allege that without obtaining any license from the Transport Department, the aggregators are attaching whiteboards to two-wheelers meant for personal use. They also accused bike riders of eating into their revenue. In the city, more than 2.1 lakh autos are plying on the roads and more than about 70,000 two-wheeler owners rely on bike taxi services.

Recently, auto drivers affiliated to Bangalore Auto Drivers Unions' Federation observed a 24-hour strike demanding that the State government impose a ban on bike taxi services and withdraw a policy on e-bike taxis introduced last year.

The Transport Department's S.N. Siddaramappa has been maintaining that as the issue is pending before the Karnataka High Court they cannot take any coercive action against the aggregators as per the court's order. The efforts of the department earlier to crack down on "illegal" bike taxi operations hit a legal hurdle.

Two points of view

Bike taxi riders say that they are being targeted and their livelihoods are being destroyed. The president of Bike Taxi Association Adi Narayana M. said, "We are staging a protest for the second time at Freedom Park as bike taxi riders continue to face the wrath of auto drivers. For livelihood, we are dependent on running bike taxis. We too have families. We want the police to take strict action against them and the State government to bring out a policy to protect our interests." He alleged that recently, a union leader of auto drivers had threatened to set a biker's two-wheeler on fire after humiliating him for attaching the bike with an aggregator. The incident happened near Majestic in the heart of the city and a video of the alleged incident had gone viral. The police say a legal opinion has been sought on the alleged incident on how to pursue the case.

The president of the Auto Drivers Union (CITU) C.N. Sreenivas said, "In the city, for over six decades, auto drivers have been providing transport services. Illegal operation of bike taxies pose threat to safety of pillion riders and also are snatching the livelihood of the more than 2 lakh auto drivers in the city. The number of people attaching their private bikes for commercial purposes is increasing every day. In the past, the Transport Department had impounded the vehicles but it is not taking any action now. We have been fighting against injustice for more than three years."

He pointed out that other State governments, such as Maharashtra and Delhi, have banned bike taxi services.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 28		
RISE	06:19	SET 18:31
RISE	11:21	SET 00:00
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29		
RISE	06:18	SET 18:31
RISE	12:13	SET 00:43
THURSDAY, MAR. 30		
RISE	06:17	SET 18:31
RISE	13:05	SET 01:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
33°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will remain pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm with gusty winds may occur.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client **Mr.Sandeep Melgiri** is intending to purchase the residential vacant Site No.5 from **M/s. J.P. SUPREME** (the Developer) situated at the residential layout **"J.P.SUPREME"** developed by M/s J. P. Supreme in Survey No.8/1,10/2,10/3,10/4 and 10/5, Vaderamanchanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District

Any person /firm/institution /company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of this publication of his/her/their claim, if any, with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any of such person shall be considered as waived and not binding on my client.

Sateesh S. Advocate
No.624, 2nd Floor, 15th Main, 24th Cross, BSK II Stage, Bengaluru - 560070

India wants to be part of the global eVTOL dream, says Ministry of Civil Aviation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, on Monday said that India wants to be part of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft dream along with the rest of the world that is planning to offer this innovative transportation technology by 2025.

Mr. Bansal, delivering the inaugural address at India's first Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) conference said, "eVTOL's future is not as far as it seems, it is much closer than what it appears, we are in 2023 and in 2025 this global dream will become a reality and India very much wants to be part of this global initiative."

AAM is an air transportation system that moves people and cargo between short distances, otherwise not served or underserved by aviation using eVTOL. eVTOL are also known as electric air taxi's and countries like Singapore, UAE, France, Germany, UK and US have already announced their plans to launch these air taxi's by 2025.

Mr. Bansal said that the eVTOL's in India should be an industry-led initiative and asked the industry to give feedback on how to implement the eVTOL ecosystem in the country.

"We want to know what you (industry) want from us. What is it you want from the air traffic management as there is a lot of talk about manned and unmanned vehicles. We also want to know what is happening globally; are there some protocols? What will be the responsibility of the DGCA, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and so on," Mr. Bansal said.

Amit Dutta, chairman, CII Task Force on Advanced Air Mobility, said that short-haul air mobility services are the next big disruption waiting to happen.

"As our country is transforming from India living in villages to over 50% of population in urban centers in the foreseeable future, traditional mobility platforms on terra firma would be grossly insufficient. Short-haul air mobility services are the next big disruption waiting to happen," said Mr Dutta. He added that operating electric craft is less expensive, much quieter and safer and they also address sustainability with regard to overall environmental footprint when compared to traditional helicopters.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BANGALORE 560029 (ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT) Ph:080-26995215

Ref. No.: NIMH/ENG/HOES/1769 /2022-23 Date: 27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore for the following works on e-procurement platform http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in last date for uploading tender is on 10.04.2023 upto 3.00 pm.
Class I registered Electrical contractors of KPWD / CPWD/CEIG & e-procurement Registration of Government of **Karnataka e-portal only.**
Note: GST will be paid separately on tendered / bill amount.

1	Providing LT electrical power supply for the newly constructed building PSSB from HT-10 substation in NIMHANS campus, Bengaluru, (On two cover system/ stage).	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs. 46.61 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 3 months EMD is Rs.93,300/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 209.
2	Replacement of lift provided at Convention centre in NIMHANS campus, Bengaluru, (On two cover system/ stage).	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs. 25.35 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 3 months EMD is Rs. 51,000/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 208.

For information, Please visit NIMHANS website: www.nimhans.ac.in and on e-procurement platform http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

***Sd/-*, Head of Engg Section**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **Mrs.ANURADHA** D/o Sri.S.Ramachar, residing in the Schedule Property.

The Owner represents that, she had misplaced/lost the original (i) Sale Deed dated 01/08/1974 executed by ITI Employees' Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd., in favour of Sri.E.C.Jayaraman S/o Sri.E.S.Chidambaram, registered as document No.4003/1974-75, in Book-1, Volume-1086 at pages 157 to 163, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, (ii) Power of Attorney dated 13/06/1988 executed by Sri.E.C.Jayaraman in favour of Sri.S.Suresh Kumar S/o Sri.K.Subramanyam and Sri.K.S.Rajagopalan S/o Sri.Swaminath Iyer (iii) Building plan dated 22/01/1991 issued by Bangalore City Corporation and (iv) other connected documents. And to that effect she has lodged a Police Complaint on 24/03/2023 vide Lost Report No.0511392/2023, with the Bengaluru City Police. Further the Owner represents that she has not deposited or otherwise handed over the said original Sale deed, Power of Attorney, plan and other documents to any person/s or Bank or institution and that the Owner has a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule Property.

Apart from the said Owner, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any person/s having custody of the said original sale deed, Power of Attorney, plan and connected documents, they are hereby called upon to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing **Municipal No.23** (Site No.23 formed by I.T.I Employees' Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd.,), PID No.57-21-23, measuring East to West 45ft, and North to South 80 ft, in all measuring 3600 Sq.ft, with a house thereon, **situated at 9th Cross, ITI Layout, Sarakki I Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru,** within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.22
West by : Property bearing No.24
North by : Property bearing No.29 & 30
South by : 9th Cross Road

Sd/- Bayya Reddy. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 4th Floor, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

PULSE-CHECK

GETTY IMAGES

Screening for autism: how to assess and identify the severity of the disorder

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex and multifaceted disorder that requires a multidisciplinary approach to treatment. Early diagnosis and intervention are critical to improving outcomes for children with ASD and their families

Asha Gnanaolivu
Nitya G.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects social communication, interactions, and behaviour. In India, it remains widely misunderstood and underdiagnosed. Signs of ASD can vary but difficulty with social interactions, communication challenges, repetitive behaviours, and restricted interests are common. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for better outcomes and support for families. To ensure a culturally sensitive approach to assessment and treatment, it is important to consult qualified healthcare professionals experienced in diagnosing and treating ASD in India.

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), ASD is considered to be a single disorder. The previous system of classifying different levels of autism is no longer used. The DSM itself is a handbook that doctors and researchers use to diagnose and study mental health conditions; DSM-5 is the latest edition.

The levels of ASD

The DSM-5 assesses the severity of ASD by evaluating social communication and restricted, repetitive behaviours. The severity of ASD is determined by assigning a level of support such as 1, 2 or 3 based on the individual's need for assistance and the impact of their symptoms on their daily lives. The level that the doctor assigns will reflect how much external assistance a person is likely to need for their day-to-day activities. Assessing this correctly can help doctors and other specialists work with the individual to provide the right kind of support.

ASD affects people in different ways, and the DSM-5 has new descriptions to help understand these differences. Instead of ascribing different levels of autism, it has three "levels of support" to describe the severity.

Level 1 is where a person with autism may have social challenges that need some help. They may have trouble starting conversations, responding to others, or making friends without the right forms of help. They may also have a need for routine and organisation.

At level 2, the person needs more support than at Level 1. Communication challenges can make it hard for the individual to have coherent conversations or understand nonverbal cues. Daily routines and changes may also cause significant distress.

It is at level 3 that the person needs the highest level of support. They may avoid interacting with others, have difficulty making friends or participating in imaginative play, and find it very hard to change their focus or routines. Repetitive behaviours may affect their ability to function, and communication challenges will be significant.

These levels can help doctors and families understand a person's needs and provide the right support. Everyone with autism is unique and has their strengths and challenges.

Identifying autism

Getting an autism diagnosis for a child is a two-step process. First, the child receives developmental check-ups during routine healthcare visits at around 18 and 24 months old. During these check-ups, a doctor talks to the parent or caregiver about the child's behaviour, development, and family history, and looks for signs of autism. If the doctor suspects autism, the child will move on to the second stage of evaluation, involving a team of healthcare professionals that will conduct further assessments to determine if the child has autism and what kind of support they may need.

It is important to seek an evaluation if you have concerns about your child's development or behaviour, as an early diagnosis can help the child reach their full potential.

The road to a diagnosis will include various professionals, including child psychiatrists, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, and occupational therapists. These experts will evaluate a child's cognitive and language skills, sensory issues, and other concerns. Additional tests may be required to rule out other conditions. For older individuals, symptoms of autism may be noticed by caregivers, parents, teachers, or other people who interact with them, leading to a medical evaluation. Diagnosis can be particularly challenging in these instances, as the symptoms can be similar to other mental health conditions, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Tools for screening

Doctors have many methods to screen for autism, including informal observations and formal assessments. The methods can range from simple observations to more structured tests.

One common screening tool is the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) Revised. This is a 20-question test for children aged 16-30 months. However, recent evidence suggests that M-CHAT may not be as effective at identifying autism in female children and those from minority, urban, and low-income backgrounds. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a general developmental screen that assesses developmental challenges at specific ages. The Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers & Young Children (STAT) has 12 activities to assess play, communication, and imitation among toddlers and young children. The Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status is a parent interview designed to identify developmental delays in areas such as motor skills, language, and self-help. The Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism is designed to assess the severity of autism. Similarly, the Childhood Autism Rating Scale rates individuals on a scale from 'normal' to 'severe' and yields a composite score indicating a level of autism.

Support and therapy can help individuals manage the challenges ASD presents. Educational and behavioural therapies are especially be helpful for younger children and can focus on specific areas of difficulty, such as communication and social skills.

By participating in therapy, family members and caregivers can also learn how to provide constructive support, while helping the individual with ASD learn strategies for living independently and managing mood changes, anxiety, attention deficit, and other symptoms. Supportive therapies can also help individuals become less irritable, aggressive, obsessive, hyperactive, and/or impulsive.

In sum, ASD is a complex and multifaceted disorder that requires a multidisciplinary approach to treatment. Early diagnosis and intervention are critical to improving outcomes for children with ASD and their families. By identifying and addressing autism early on, individuals can receive the support they need and the therapies to lead fulfilling lives.

Asha Gnanaolivu is the founder of Beautiful Minds Astitva and Nitya G. is an Expressive Arts Facilitator who sets up environments that promote mental wellbeing for children with diverse needs.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

221 years ago today, the German astronomer Heinrich Olbers discovered the 'minor planet' 2 Pallas. Today's quiz is about this small body with big stories

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
In 1779, French astronomer Charles Messier spotted Pallas but assumed it was just some star. This observation led to a label given to the class of bodies like Pallas. What label?

QUESTION 2
Heinrich Olbers discovered 2 Pallas by accident, when he was looking for the only other such body discovered by then, which remains the largest known object of its kind. What is its name?

QUESTION 3
The discovery and naming of Pallas was also carried over to a new chemical element that had been discovered just then, in 1803. Name the element.

QUESTION 4
Pallas is one of only three protoplanets — clumps of rock and dust that didn't go on to form planets in the early Solar System — whose orbits lie inside the orbit of Neptune. One of the other two is the answer to Q2. Name the third.

QUESTION 5
Some scientists believe the asteroid 3200 Phaethon broke off from 2 Pallas a long time ago. 3200 Phaethon is the parent body of a highly consistent meteor shower that occurs in the first half of December. Name it.

Visual question:
According to Greek mythology, X and Pallas, were engaged in a fight. When Pallas seemed set to win, X's father distracted Pallas, causing X to accidentally kill her. In sorrow, X adopted Pallas's name as a tribute. Name X, pictured above. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This event is commemorated every year on January 1 by the street theatre group Janam at Jhandapur village. This prominent theatre personality is related to this event. **Ans: Safdar Hashmi, who was murdered by Congress workers during a performance of the play *Halla Bol* on 1 January 1989**
2. This famous play was made into a children's film by Shyam Benegal with the same name. **Ans: *Charandas Chor* by Habib Tanvir**
3. This artist and playwright was jailed by the West Bengal government in 1965 for "subversive messages" in his play, *Kallol*. **Ans: Utpal Dutt**
4. This person, awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2010, began her career as a member of the contemporary dance troupe before acting with the Indian Peoples' Theatre Association. **Ans: Zohra Sehgal**
5. He was the art director of Koothu-p-pattarai and a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2012. **Ans: Na Muthuswamy**
Visual: This is the longest running Broadway show. **Ans: The Phantom of the Opera**
Early Birds: Arnasree Chakraborty| Tom. T. Odackal| Dhiraj Singh Rawat

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. A. K. Chatterjee of Darjeeling wants to know the difference between 'I would rather go' and 'I had better go'."

" 'Would rather' means 'would prefer to'.

Would you have coffee or tea? I'd rather have something to eat.

'Would rather' expresses a preference for something. Very often the contracted form of 'would' is used.

I'd rather sit down.
I'd rather stay here than in his place.
I'd prefer to stay here than in his place.

'I had better go' means I should go. 'Had better' doesn't mean that some action is better than another. It has the meaning of 'strong recommendation or advisability'. 'You had better leave immediately' means you must leave immediately. Very often the contracted form of 'had' is used.

I'd better go.
I'd better talk to her.
He'd better not come again this side.
You'd better hurry up.

In informal speech, 'had' is sometimes dropped.

I better go.
You better eat.
I better close the door."

"A. N. Srivatsava, Dehradun, wants to know the difference between 'discomfit' and 'discomfort'."

" 'Discomfit' means 'to frustrate the plans of, 'to perplex', 'to embarrass', 'to baffle'.

He was greatly discomfited by their vulgar jokes.
They were discomfited by his question.

The noun form of 'discomfit' is discomfiture.

The secret plans of America were disclosed to the discomfiture of the State Department.

'Discomfort' means 'uneasiness of body and mind', 'lack of comfort'.

He suffered discomfort during his travel from Delhi to Agra.

'Discomfort' can be used as a verb also. However, it is only occasionally you see it used as a verb."

"Mr. D. Chandrasekhar Sarma, Matwada, Warangal, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth'."

"It means to be 'born to good luck', 'born with hereditary wealth'.

Jawaharlal Nehru was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

It was customary for god-parents to present spoons at the time of christening or naming of the baby. Children of rich parents usually got silver spoons. Sometimes twelve spoons were presented representing the twelve apostles. Each spoon had the figure of an apostle at the top of the handle; some times four spoons were presented representing the four evangelists. This is the origin of the idiom."

"Mr. M. Babu Rao, Asst. Food Controller, wants to know the pronunciation of (a) cassette; (b) video."

"The 'a' in 'cassette' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'; 'sette' is pronounced like the word 'set'. The stress is on 'ssette'. The final 'e' is silent. The 'i' and 'e' in 'video' are pronounced like the 'i' in 'it'. The 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'home' and 'bone'. The stress is on the first syllable 'vi'."

Published in The Hindu on June 9, 1987

Word of the day

Transience:
an impermanence that suggests the inevitability of ending or dying, the attribute of being brief or fleeting

Synonyms: brevity, briefness, transitoriness

Usage: *His art talks about life's transience.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/transiencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: / ˈtræn ʃəns, -ʒəns, -zi əns /

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

RGUHS will be renamed after Kengal Hanumanthaiya: CM

It is currently named after the late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an yet another political move towards wooing the Vokkaliga community ahead of Assembly elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday announced that the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), that controls all the medical colleges in the State, will be renamed after the late former Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiya.

Mr. Bommai announced the proposal while laying the foundation for the university campus in Archakarahalli of Ramanagara from where the former CM hails.

"Whose name other than that of son of the soil Kengal Hanumanthaiya, who is also the architect of Vidhana Soudha, can be best suited for the university," the CM asked. The location for the proposed university campus is just around 10 km from Lakkappanadoddi, which is the birth place of Kengal Hanumanthaiya.

"The proposal to rename RGUHS was mooted by Higher Education Minister Ashwath Narayan who is in-charge of Ramanagara district. I will direct the authorities concerned to bring the proposal before the University's Syndicate immediately," the CM said.

He described Mr. Hanumanthaiya as a towering personality who participated in the freedom struggle as well as the movement for state re-organisation. "He is a great person who provided strong leadership to the State and worked for its comprehensive development as Chief Minister and contributed immensely to the development of railways in Karnataka as the Union Railways Minister. He is also a close associate of my father," he said.

The CM recalled that efforts were on for the last 16 years to set up the university campus in Ramanagara. He said Ramanagara will become a major health centre as the campus will have a 1,000-bed hospital, medical college and a medical research centre

Wooing the community

A few days ago, the government had announced an increase in reservation to the Vokkaligas along with Lingayats. Now, the decision to rename the RGUHS after Kengal Hanumanthaiya, who is a community icon, is being seen as an attempt to further reach out to the community in this district which has a dominant presence of Vokkaligas and remained politically elusive for the BJP. Ramanagara is currently represented by Anitha Kumaraswamy, the wife of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Their son Nikhil is set to contest from here.

Remembering Ambareesh

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the samadhi of actor Ambareesh on Kanteerava Studio premises in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BU expresses inability to pay salaries of UVCE staff for March

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Citing a fund crunch, Bangalore University has expressed its inability to pay the salaries of the staff of the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) for the month of March 2023.

The decision of the BU has put the staff working in the UVCE, which was elevated to an autonomous institution by the State government, in trouble. The State government had announced that the UVCE would be developed on the lines of Indian Institute of Technology (IITS). Foreseeing trouble, the staff of the college and its alumni have been demanding the State government provide adequate funds to pay the salaries, administrative and other expenses.

In a letter addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education Department, the Registrar of the BU said that the State government after declaring UVCE as autonomous, removed it from the administrative control of the BU with effect from March 31, 2023. The BU claims that the State government did not provide any financial allocation to pay the salaries of the staff of UVCE in the financial year 2023-24. It further states that it has come to the knowledge of the BU for the next financial year, that the State government has provided a separate allocation to UVCE for paying salaries. Hence, the BU is not in a position to pay the salaries.

UVCE staff to protest

In the backdrop of BU's decision, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the UVCE decided to protest against the government. The college has a staff strength of 78 regular teaching faculties, 35 non-teaching faculties, 114 guest faculties and more than 50 outsourced employees. The capital and operational expenditure of the UVCE is around ₹47.69 crore per annum. However, the government has announced only ₹22.4 crore for the next financial year, which is not sufficient and leaves a deficit of ₹25.29 crore, they say. However, the Board of Governors (BoG) of UVCE has asked for a budget of around ₹50 crore, but the government is yet to respond.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, H.C. Chittappa, the president of UVCE Teachers' Association, said, "The BoG and our association have requested many times to the government to provide an adequate budget for the institution. But, there is no concrete response from the government. At the same time, the status-quo understanding with Bangalore University comes to an end on March 31. The Bangalore University has already taken a stand not to pay the salary of the staff for the month of March. Considering that the developments go against the interest of staff, we have no option but to protest."

HC cancels interim anticipatory bail of Madal Virupakshappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday cancelled the interim anticipatory bail to Madal Virupakshappa, BJP MLA, as he was not cooperating with the Lokayukta police in the investigation, and rejected his petition for grant of anticipatory bail in the bribery case registered against him.

"I am of the view that the custodial interrogation of the petitioner-accused number 1 [Madal Virupaskshappa] is very much necessary for the Lokayukta police," Justice K. Natarajan said while dismissing the petition.

The court said it had granted interim anticipatory bail as there was no material produced against him in the first information report (FIR) as the investigating officer himself stated in the seizure note that "no material was available against the MLA at present".

However, now the Lokayukta police had produced the case diary and other material to point out the alleged involvement of the MLA in the commission of the offence when he was serving as chairman of the Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Ltd. (KSDL), Justice Natarajan said.

KSDL MD's statement

The court noted that Mahesh, Managing Director of KSDL, had recorded his statement before the jurisdictional magistrate indicating the involvement of the MLA in the tender process in the capacity as chairman and the MLA's son, Madal Prashanth, who was caught red-handed by the Lokayukta police on March 2 while accepting a bribe of ₹40 lakh from the complainant. "Mr. Mahesh categorically stated that there was frequent instructions given by this petitioner-accused no. 1 [Madal Virupakshappa] through accused no. 2 [Madal Prashanth] in tender floating activities, and also that at the instance of instruction of this petitioner [Madal Virupaskhappa], the tender has been finalised," the court noted from the records.

Role of MLA and his son

The court also pointed out from the record that "accused no. 2 has actively given all the instructions to the complainant on behalf of the MLA. There were WhatsApp messages and telephone instructions given by this petitioner to Mahesh, the Managing Director of KSDL, which clearly reveal that at the instance of this petitioner-accused no. 1 and on behalf of the petitioner-accused No. 1, the accused no. 2 almost acted on for tender process, procurement process and demand and acceptance of the alleged bribe amount, pertaining to KSDL."

Noticing that the investigation officer was not able to collect the call records, WhatsApp messages from the mobile of the MLA due to his non-cooperation, the court said that "the matter requires detailed investigation and without the custodial interrogation, it is not possible for the police to collect the proper evidence against the petitioner."

"If the petitioner is on bail, there is every possibility of apprehension by the witnesses and they may not come forward to give evidence or statement against him without fear," the court observed.

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INBRIEF

Congress candidates get pep talk by leaders

A number of Congress candidates, some of them first-timers in the electoral arena, and whose names figured in the first list released on Saturday, underwent training in election management from party's election veterans here on Monday. In more than an hour-long training in which about 50 candidates took part, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar - veterans of many high voltage electoral battles - gave a pep talk to candidates, many of whom will be testing their electoral fortunes on their debut. The Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala was also present. The Congress announced a list of 124 candidates on Saturday.

REVA Business School's new block inaugurated

REVA Business School's new block on the REVA University campus was inaugurated by Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on Monday. The event was held in the presence of P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University; Umesh Raju, Pro Chancellor, REVA University, and other dignitaries. According to a release, the Union Minister interacted with the youth and took questions from them ranging from the various government initiatives taken up for promoting youth talent in the country to various schemes for women's welfare and addressing issues of unemployment in the country. She also spoke of the country's vision of improving the education sector and how India can contribute to society through its youth and various youth-based programmes. Ms. Irani said that everyone's combined contribution enables our country for the greater good and become ambassadors of India's culture.

Internal quota: Protest by Banjara community turns violent in Shikaripur

Protesters tried to break into the residence of BSY, who represents the constituency in the Assembly; they raised slogans against BJP government and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

People of Banjara community staging a protest in Shikaripur on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tension prevailed at Shikaripur in Shivamogga district on Monday as protest opposing the internal reservation among Scheduled Castes turned violent, forcing the police to resort to lathi-charge.

The people of Banjara community, who fall under the SC (Touchable) category, had gathered to take a protest march from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Circle to the Taluk Office in the town, arguing that internal reservation divides SCs.

Barricades broken

During the march, they tried to break into the residence of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who represents Shikaripur constituency in the Assembly. The protesters advanced and broke down the barricades, forcing the police to resort to lathi-charge.

An angry mob threw stones at the residence, breaking the window panes. A few also threw slippers at the residence.

A couple of police officials suffered injuries in the incident. The demonstrators lit a bundle of saris and tyres on fire.

Mr. Yediyurappa's supporters are said to have distributed sarees to women last month to celebrate the former Chief Minister's birthday.

The protesters raised slogans against the BJP government, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Mr. Yediyurappa for recommending internal quota for the Scheduled Castes in four separate categories.

The protesters said they had supported Mr. Yediyurappa all through his political career in Shikaripur. However, he and his party took a decision to recommend internal reservation for Scheduled Castes. The move would divide the SCs and deprive them of opportunities. Additionally, they argued that the taluk administration's resistance to receive their memorandum was the reason why the protest turned violent. A few protesters, including a couple of women, suffered injuries.

Senior police officers, including Shivamogga SP G.K. Mithun Kumar, were in the town to handle the situation. The police have taken a few people into custody. Mr. Kumar told the media that four policemen suffered injuries in the incidents on the day.

"The situation is under control. We have made proper arrangements to ensure no untoward incidents. KSRP platoons have been deployed," he said.

The State government has taken a decision favouring internal reservation among Scheduled Castes.

As per the new formula, castes under SC (Left) get 6% reservation, those in SC (Right) get 5.5%, SC (Touchable) get 4.5%, and others get 1%.

CM holds Congress responsible for violence; BSY says he won't blame anyone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai blamed the Opposition Congress for the violence in Shikaripur in which the Banjara community pelted stones at the house of BJP veteran leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, while the latter refused to blame anyone for the episode.

"The Congress, especially its local unit, instigated the violence as it was unable to tolerate efforts by the BJP government to provide social justice to the deprived communities," the Chief Minister told mediapersons in Chickballapur.

Appealing to leaders of the Banjara community to shun anxiety, the Chief Minister sought to clarify that the new reservation matrix had not been done as per the A.J. Sadashiva Commisison's report that had caused worry among this community. "We have made the changes in reservation as per the recommendation of the Cabinet sub-committee."

He further said, "I had issued an order on continuation of the Banjara and others including Bovi, Koracha and Korama, in the SC list, and forwarded it to the Centre. We have increased reservation for them to 4.5% as against the earlier recommendation of 3%."

> The Congress, especially its local unit, instigated the violence as it was unable to tolerate efforts by the BJP government to provide social justice to the deprived communities.
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**
> Chief Minister

Meanwhile, seeking to differ from the views of his party colleagues, Mr. Yediyurappa refused to blame any political party for the episode.

"I was in Bengaluru when the incident took place. It is not proper to come to a conclusion that someone is behind it at least at this juncture," Mr. Yediyurappa told reporters.

He said he would visit Shikaripur in a day or two and hold consultations with the community with whom he shares cordial relations. He pointed out that he had set up Tanda Development Corporation. "I have asked the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Shivamogga to desist from taking any action such as arrest against the community's protesters," he said.

Bommai lays foundation for 2.93-km ropeway to Nandi Hills

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai being felicitated by Ministers Sudhakar, N. Nagaraju (MTB), and R. Ashok in Chickballapur on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai laid the foundation for construction of a 2.93-km ropeway to Nandi Hills, on outskirts of Bengaluru, to be taken up at a cost of ₹93.40 crore.

He said cine actor-director the late Shankar Nag had dreamt of such a ropeway for Nandi Hills. Though the then Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde too had favoured it, the project had languished for decades. However, the dreams of tourists are set to become a reality in a few months, he said on Monday.

He explained that the Karnataka Tourism Department had entered into an agreement with Dyanamicx Ropeway Limited for constructing a ropeway to Nandi Hills under public private partnership model.

Eco-friendly mode

Describing this as an eco-friendly mode of transport, he said this would also help in providing an aerial view of the scenic place.

Facilities to park 480 two-wheelers and 410 four-wheelers, besides a food court, drinking water units, toilets and restaurants, would be set up on the foot hills for the convenience of tourists. The hill top would have a food court, drinking water units and toilets.

15-minute journey

It is estimated that the journey in the ropeway from the foothill to the top would take 15 minutes.

The ropeway can transport 1,000 people per hour. This project would provide direct employment to about 500 people and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons, he said.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Nandi Institute of Medical Sciences in Chikkaballapur, and participated in a convention of beneficiaries of various State and Central schemes.

Other religious minorities, some sects of Muslims continue to be in OBC list

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have defended scrapping of 2B reservation for Muslims arguing that religion-based reservation is not constitutional

Amidst BJP leaders justifying exclusion of Muslims from the backward classes reservation matrix, saying that reservation cannot be based on religion, questions have been raised about the logic behind the argument.

While certain Muslim nomadic communities continue to remain in the backward classes list, several other religious minorities in the State too continue to be there on the ground of their social, educational and economic backwardness.

While experts argue that the Muslims were given reservation for their social and educational backwardness, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have defended scrapping of 2B reservation for Muslims arguing that religion-based reservation is not constitutional.

Nomadic communities

Among those 95 communities that are categorised as "most backward" under Category 1, having 4% reservation, are eight Muslim nomadic communities including Nadaf, Pinjara, Kanjarbat and Darvesh. According to the former Chairman of Karnataka Backward Classes Commission C.S. Dwarkanath, those communities in Category 1 are treated on a par with Scheduled Castes. "Moreover, the creamy layer and economic slab does not apply to these communities that are socially, educationally and economically backward," he points out.

The Muslims were in 2B receiving 4% reservation because they were treated as socially and educationally backward, but not economically backward. "This is because it is covered under Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the Indian Constitution. Karnataka never had religion-based reservation," he added.

Reports of the Naganagouda Committee, L.G. Havanur Commission, T. Venkataswamy Commission and O. Chinnappa Reddy Commission have all considered Muslims among the backward classes. "In 1979, Karnataka High Court hearing a petition to remove to Muslims from backward classes list said that Muslims being a religious minority is no ground to exclude from list of backward classes," said Mr. Dwarakanath.

Other minorities

Among other religious minorities identified under backward classes are Sikhs, Buddhists and converted Dalit Christians, who are among 102 communities recognised under Category 2 A that receive 15% reservation. Jains and Christians shared reservation benefits with Veerashaiva-Linagayats in Category 3B that was allocated 5%.

Gubbi MLA resigns; likely to join Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

S.R. Srinivas, MLA from Gubbi, has resigned the seat won on JD (S) ticket. His resignation has been accepted by Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri.

The MLA is said to have quit due to technical reasons, as he is expected to join Congress.

Speculation is rife that he may contest the elections on Congress ticket.

Seat vacant

With this, one more seat has fallen vacant in the Assembly. A seat had earlier fallen vacant due to the death of Deputy Speaker Chandrashekhar Mamani.

Multidisciplinary conclave held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

School of Computer Science and IT, Jain (Deemed-to-be-University), on Saturday held a multidisciplinary conclave at NIMHANS convention centre. Academicians and celebrities shared their experiences at the meet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that my client has intended to purchase and entered an agreement of sale/absolute sale deed with **Mrs. Sheela Manjunath** w/o late K N Manjunath **& Nehal M & Tejal M** children's of late K N Manjunath to purchase the schedule property. If any person/s, financial institution etc., having any claims/objection for the sale of schedule property in favour of my client may lodge their claims/objection with documentary evidence within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the transaction and no claims thereafter will be entertained.

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All that piece and parcel of vacant site **Municipal No. 27-A, PID No. 96-106-27-A** situated at **1st Main Road, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Bengaluru,** BBMP **Ward NO. 96 New Ward No.22,** earlier east extreme of house No. 27 Khatha No. 48/2 of Cholanayakanahalli kasaba hobli bengaluru north taluk **East to West : 27 ft , North to South 60ft, in Total 1620 sq ft,** bounded on **East by - Property No. 28, West by : Property of KN Satish Kumar, North by - 30ft Road, South by - Private Property**

H. A. AMARNATH , Advocate
#272, 2nd Block Rt Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
Mobile NO: 78998 65859 | 96327 83173| 98865 85809

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Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 H.R.B.H.L.C Division, Gorur Hassan District-573120

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Tender Notification No. 26/2022-23 Dated: 23.03.2023 (Two covers System)

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur invites tenders on ITEM RATE basis from the contractors for three works for general category contractors. The two cover tender procedure as per rule – 28 of KTPP Act be followed. The tenderers are required to submit two separate sealed covers, Ist Cover (Technical Bid) containing EMD with technical details of their capability to undertake the tender (as detailed in instructions to tenders Clause – I to XIV) and another containing Financial bid. The financial bid will be opened only if the tenderers are found to be qualified to execute the tendered work. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified. The maximum approximate amount put to tender Rs 85.03 Lakhs and minimum approximate amount put to tender Rs 84.56 Lakhs Stipulated period of completion: 6 months Category of contractor eligible : for contractors of PWD Class-3 and Above. The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from 27.03.2023 11.00 Am in the web site http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in link e-tender document on payment (non-refundable) for work towards the transaction fee (As per E-portal). While applying the contactors can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal using payment modes - I Credit card/Direct Debit/National electronic fund transfer (NEFT)/over the counter (OTC) up to 03.04.2023 up to 16th hour. Cover-I (Technical Bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur on 05.04.2023, Cover-II (Financial Bid) of qualified bidders will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur after approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur

ಬಾಸಾಸಂ೦೨/ಟಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/೨೦೨೩/1316/2022–23

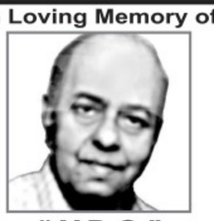
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

N NARASIMHAN (85), Retired Senior Index Assistant, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 26-03-2023. Address: 18/26, Vasudevapuram Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Contact No: 9840575865

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of



" V.R.G "
(Shri. V.R. GOPALAKRISHNAN)
Journalist & Businessman
DOB: 15/04/1932 DOD: 28/03/2015

Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time

Family Members & Staff
Sri Rama Lodge & Cafe & GROUP CONCERNS
Kanaka Sarovar Hotels
Kancheepuram / Chennai
SEETHARAMA KALYANA MANDAPAM, Vadakkencherry

DOCUMENT LOST

I have lost my original Sale deed of Property Suvery No: 31 Doc No: NMG-1-05273-2013-14 CDNO: NMGD293 Dated: 27-07-2013 named Nagarathnamma, Manjunathnagar Bangalore - 560073 with Police complaint RegNo: 0503608/2023 Dated 16-03-2023

If found contact Ph: 98456 22077

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

I SHOBHA SRINIDHI w/o Late A.S Srinidhi residing at 18/1 1st Main 3rd Cross Maruthi Extension Srirampuram Bengaluru have lost my absolute Sale Deed of my property and have lodged complaint in the police Station All the piece and parcel of Site bearing no 3 situated at Ilvala village, Ilvala Hobli, Mysore Taluk Mysore District measuring 40x30 Registered on 15/3/89 vide Document No. 1364/1988-89 Volume No. 777 in pages 152-154 stored in Book No. 1 in the Office of Sub Registrar, Mysore North Taluk on 16.3.89 from Seetha Ramaiah and transferred khatha in my name bearing No.152200403127002116 vide Certificate No. 1023563

If found or any claims I request you to report to the address or call us on the number given below within Seven days No.9035307845

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice to the general that my client namely **Yashodha Bai** has entered into an Agreement of Sale dated 17-03-2023 as Document Ref No SUBIN-KAKACRSFL08169941 48538951V with its owner namely **Panduranga E** in respect of the schedule property situated at Bangalore North Thalluk, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Malagala Grama, Present BBMP Kottigepalya Ward No 73, Assessment No 2/2, Site No 4, which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property from his vendor as mentioned above and any objections or claims in any nature whatsoever for or against such purchase shall be addressed to the office of the counsel mentioned below within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and in the absence of such objections and claims my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property located at Bangalore North Thalluk, Yeshwanthapura Hobli , Malagala Grama Present BBMP Kottigepalya ward no 73 , assessment No 2/2, Site No 5, East to West 60-00 Feet North to South 44-00 Feet total 2640 Sqft which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder.

East by: Road
West by: Some other Property
North by: Hanumayyas Site No 5
South by: Appayyas Site No 3

Mr. V.Mahesha
Advocate,No. 18, 2nd A Main,Ittamadu BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085
Ph No 9945017272
Email : mdb2573@gmail.com

Decision on probe agencies' request must be taken within six months: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the competent authorities of the State government should take a decision within an outer limit of six months, if not earlier, on the requests made by the investigating agencies for grant of sanction under Section 197 of Cr.PC for prosecution of public servants in criminal cases.

"The State or the competent authority cannot sit over the files for sanction for months together and contend 'not taking any decision is also a decision', as only on account of want of sanction the proceedings are being quashed even in cases where corruption is the allegation..." the High Court said. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a batch of petitions filed by M.S. Faneesha, who was working as executive officer of Arakalgud taluk panchayat in Hassan district.

The court quashed chargesheets for want of sanction for his prosecution filed against the petitioner in 2016 in several cases of criminal breach of trust under Section 408 and 409 of the Cr.PC registered against him during 2009-10 for allegedly causing loss to the State exchequer by not following the procedure while executing.

"If government wants to curb corruption, a bane to the society in the present day, such intention of the government should be reflected in swift action, particularly in cases concerning corruption or any act of a public servant in discharge of his official duty," the court observed. It said litigations are being generated on indecisiveness of respective competent authorities either on the ignorance of the probe agency in not requesting for sanction or the indecisiveness of the respective competent authorities in not passing orders on request made by the investigating agency seeking sanction for prosecution.

No interim relief for BRS MLC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday indicated its intention to test the Centre's claim that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can summon Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K. Kavitha in the Delhi excise policy case, considering the court's own judgment in 2022, which backed the Central agency's vast powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. A Bench led by Justice Ajay Rastogi, however, did not grant any interim relief to Ms. Kavitha, including protection from arrest.

Update us on Bills pending with Telangana Governor: SC

Bench led by CJI Chandrachud asks Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to report back on April 10; State government blames Tamilisai Soundararajan for creating a 'constitutional impasse'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tamilisai Soundararajan

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to provide it with an "updated position" of the Bills pending with Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on a request from the Telangana government, represented by senior advocate Dushyant Dave, asked Mr. Mehta to report back on April 10.

Mr. Dave pressed for an earlier date than April 10, possibly March 29, for Mr. Mehta to get the necessary information from the Governor.

"Several Bills passed by the Assembly are pending... We want to know why?" he asked the Bench.

The State has blamed the Governor for creating a "constitutional impasse" by refusing to act on several Bills passed by the legislature.

Mr. Dave had earlier submitted that the Bills were pending since September 14 last year, awaiting the assent of the Governor.

"In a parliamentary democracy, the Governor has no discretion to delay necessary assent as required on the Bills. Any refusal on the part of the Governor, including delay, will defeat parliamentary democracy and will of the people," the State has said in its petition filed through advocate S. Udaya Kumar Sagar.

The State has urged the court to "declare that the inaction, omission and failure to comply with the constitutional mandate qua the assent of the Bills by the Governor is highly irregular, illegal".

Mr. Dave, through the petition, has argued that the Governor may or may not give assent to a Bill. However, the decision should be taken, rather than keeping the Bills pending for months together.

"The Bill must be returned together with a message requesting the Houses to reconsider it or any provisions in it and rethink the desirability of introducing any such amendments," the petition said.

Over 19 lakh take class 5 and 8 board exams

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Attended by around 19.03 lakh students for the First Language subjects, the first day board exam for class 5 and 8 was successfully held across Karnataka on Monday (March 27) without any major glitches.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) conducted the exams for these classes for the first time in the State. As many as 9,59,734 students were enrolled from 56,157 schools for the class 5 examination, and 9,49,919 students were enrolled from 22,639 schools for the class 8 examination.

However, other than some confusion over interchange of question papers in the First Language subjects in Bengaluru South education district, the examination went off without any glitches. Most of the questions were covered with 'Kalike Chetarike' programme and the highest number of the questions were based on Multiple Choice Question model.

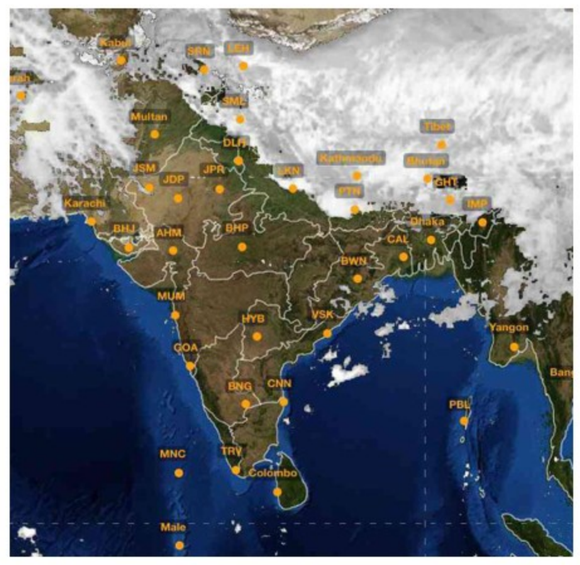
The DSEL has changed the method of assessment for classes 5 and 8 by conducting uniform examinations for all schools in the State by preparing common question papers from the academic year of 2022-23. Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools and the Registered Unaided Private Schools' Management Association, Karnataka, and the Karnataka Unaided Schools Managements' Association had challenged the government's order, but in vain.

Petition dismissed

The Supreme Court dismissed a petition by schools against a Karnataka High Court order allowing students of classes 5 and 8 to take State board exams. A Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai found no merit in the petition, asking why the institutions were opposing it when the State has already taken the decision. The lawyer for the schools said the change came at the "fag end of class 5 and 8" for the students. It was argued that the State had not consulted the stakeholders, and that the change in assessment method would affect both students and teachers.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	22.0	Kozhikode	—	35.2	26.1
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	18.6	Kurnool	—	38.9	25.3
Aizawl	—	24.0	14.0	Lucknow	—	32.2	18.0
Allahabad	—	34.8	18.8	Madurai	—	38.4	25.5
Bengaluru	0.2	34.5	22.1	Mangaluru	—	33.6	22.7
Bhopal	—	35.0	16.4	Mumbai	—	31.0	21.2
Bhubaneswar	4	36.9	13.0	Mysuru	—	36.0	22.3
Chandigarh	—	27.5	14.3	New Delhi	—	29.3	16.7
Chennai	—	34.0	27.5	Patna	—	35.3	20.2
Coimbatore	4	34.8	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.7	24.4
Dehradun	—	28.8	12.6	Puducherry	—	35.1	24.7
Gangtok	—	19.5	11.7	Pune	—	34.8	16.4
Goa	—	33.0	20.4	Raipur	—	36.5	20.5
Guwahati	—	31.6	19.2	Ranchi	—	32.2	19.6
Hubballi	—	38.0	18.0	Shillong	—	22.9	14.0
Hyderabad	1	36.0	23.7	Shimla	0.7	17.7	6.0
Imphal	2	27.3	15.9	Srinagar	—	20.1	3.0
Jaipur	—	31.0	18.5	Thiruvananthapuram	3	36.4	24.9
Kochi	—	32.2	26.0	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.4
Kohima	5.6	19.0	9.0	Vijayawada	—	36.8	26.0
Kolkata	5	32.0	23.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.4	26.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	39	13	194	154	
Bengaluru	7	16	37	48	69	
Chennai	24	16	55	38	35	
Delhi	29	84	113	161	151	
Hyderabad	16	5	72	68	101	
Kolkata	10	31	50	62	63	
Lucknow	11	32	84	120	127	
Mumbai	18	126	86	197	152	
Pune	102	145	113	100	80	
Visakhapatnam	19	39	36	48	87	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Araria, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 313 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Office of the Director of Printing, Stationery Pulications
R.V. College Post, 8th Mile, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560059. Phone: 080-28484515 / 28484518

Notification No.: DPS71PUR(B)2022-23/Artpaper Dated: 23.03.2023

Brief Tender Notification
(through e-procurement)

Online Tenders are invited for the **Supply of Art Printing Paper** Under rate contract. Estimated total value of the Tender is about **Rs. 160.00 Lakhs** & total EMD is **Rs. 8.00 Lakhs**. Pre bid Meeting shall be on Date: **30.03.2023, 11:30 AM** & Last date for Submission of Tender on **10.04.2023, 17:30 hrs.** For details visit Website : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. For any further clarificaions the above office may be contacted.

DIPR/Urban/5460/Manipal/2022-23 **Sd/- Director**

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Long Term Tender Notice IFB No.199/2022-23 Dt.27.03.2023 & 197/2022-23 Dt.27.02.2023 (3rd Call)

Tender for total 02 Nos. of Works in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam under and HW & HLC Division, TB Dam in various categories are invited through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time	: 28.03.2023 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	: 10.04.2023 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time	: 10.04.2023 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage	: 11.04.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* (IFB No.197/2022-23 (2nd Call)	: 13.04.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage** (IFB No.199/2022-23)	: 13.04.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage	: 13.04.2023 at 3:00 PM

Further details can be seen @ **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
* Commencement of E Auction
** Commencement of Reverse Tendering

✆:08394 – 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167
Sd/- **Superintending Engineer** I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru -11

No.EEP(S)/E-Procu/30/22-23 Date: 27.03.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Project-South Division, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
1	Dietary food services to Referral Hospitals and Maternity Homes of South Clinical Wing of BBMP.	39,60,000/-	79,200/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website. **2)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **10.04.2023, upto 04.00 p.m. 3)** Opening of financial bid: **12.04.2023 at 12.00 p.m.** or after Technical bid approval. Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project-South Division.

Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Department of Agriculture, AP invites bids for selection of Agencies for supply of equipment for Soil testing in Andhra Pradesh State. For other details please visit **www.apagrisnet.gov.in** or **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**

DIPR 1641PP/CL, Dt.27.03.2023 **Sd/- Sri. C.Hari Kiran, Special Commissioner of Agriculture**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Mangaluru Division Mangaluru
Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(104E/89E/96E/95E/98E):2022-23:JE-3: Dated: 27.03.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION / 2nd Call

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent No : 168621 **under the Head of account:- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements.**
Inviting **Tender 2nd Call for** Indent No: 164105, 167942, 167830, 167663, 167599, 167600, 167161, 167773, 167774, 167775, 167766, 167726, 167725, 167724, 167798, 167796, 167765, 167763, 167761, 167760, 167759, 167758, 167732, 167730, 167728, 167727, 167794 **under the Head of account:- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender: 03.04.2023 upto 17.30 Hours.**
In the above Work Highest Cost of Estimate is Rs.400.00 Lakhs & Lowest Cost of Estimate is Rs.20.00 Lakhs. Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/1620/22-23 dt.27.03.2023 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಂಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ :08352–250194, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:jdaagridept1@rediffmail.com

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ) ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಸೇವೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: JDA/MANPOWER/TENDER/2022-23
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.04.2023
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) 100.00

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಂಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/1125/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Udupi
Rajathadri", B Block, 1st floor, Room No B-208, Manipal, Udupi

NO:EE/RWSSDU/Tender No.67/2022-23/ Dated: 27.03.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION.

Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Karnataka in "ONE COVER SYSTEM" through Government of Karnataka E-procurement portal for work costing Rs. 4.63 Lakhs, Eligible contractor shall apply for this tender.
Calender Of Events
1. The Contractor can download the Tender document from: 27.03.2023
2. Last Date for Submission of tenders : 03.04.2023 4.00 PM.
3. Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender : 05.04.2023 11.00 AM.
The blank tender documents can be viewed or downloaded from E-proc portal, Details of work/eligibility of contractor/Tender processing fees/dates of events etc. can be had from website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours.
Right of acceptance of tender is reserved.
E-proc portal helpdesk: 080-22371090/22373788
Hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com
Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Udupi

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SEE/TR(M)/Ramanagara/EE/AEE-1/F-35/23-23/6105-07 Date: 27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against bid Enq No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/SCADANUMERICAL/EPR-362/CALL-3 Dtd: 27.03.2023 for Supplying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV SAS Compatible numerical line panel for 7nos of feeder at 220/66/11kv R/S Dabaspet, TL&SS Nelamangala ON TOTAL TURN KEY BASIS. **Amount put to tender Rs.32,75,068.00** and **EMD amount Rs.32,751.00.** The bid will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on the hyperlink e-procurement **on or after 28.03.2023 at 16.30 Hrs.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (M), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL, 220/66/11KV Vrushabhavati Station Premises, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru - 560026 Ph: 080-29620155

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur – 591302

"PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTICATION"
(Through e-Procurement only)

The tender invited under this office Notification No: This Office Tender Notification No:1)KNNL/KPD/PB/ TND/HYL/SCP/2022-23/1835 Date: 24.03.2023. 2)KNNL/KPD/PB/TND/HYL/TSP/2022-23/1836 Date: 24.03.2023.
1.Percentage rate tender is invited from eligible Class-I KPWD & above contractors registered in KPWD through e-procurement portal according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bangalore. Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam and last date for bids submission through e-portal is on dated 24.04.2023 till 16.00 Hours for the following works.
SL No:1:Name of Work:Construction of CC Roads and Drains in Murkwad, Kanchalapura, BK halli, Ammanakoppa, Joganakoppa villages of Haliyal taluk and Ramanagar village of Joida Taluk of Uttarakannada District under SCP. (Work Indent No. 35902),Amount put to tender (In Lakhs):83.76,SL No:2:Name of Work:Construction of CC Roads and Drains in Belvatgi, Tatwanagi and Madnalli villages of Haliyal taluk of Uttarakannada District under TSP. (Work Indent No. 35903),Amount put to tender (In Lakhs):83.17
2. The Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division Khanapur on 01.04.2023 at 11.00hrs, 3.The Technical Bid will be opened on : 25.04.2023 at 16:30 hrs at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur 4.The Financial Bid will be opened will be opened on : 26.04.2023 at 16:30 hrs, or after approval of technical bid at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur 5.Name of the Division for Contact: Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur – 591302 (Ph. No. 08336 – 222163). 6.For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our website www.knnlindia.com or contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day. Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender reserves the right of cancelling / rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. 7.Further information can be had from the under signed during the office hours on telephone 08336-222163 and HP company helpline (080)25501216.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2166/KSMCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION e-Procurement Mode Only)

BESCOM invites tender against Bid enquiry No.: **BESCOM/GM/Civil/2022-23/14, Dated 27.03.2023** through e-procurement mode for **Renovation of Ground, First, Second, Third and Fourth Floor of Block II Building, BESCOM, K R Circle, Bangalore.**
Approximate Amount put to tender(excluding GST, EPF & Miscellaneous): **Rs. 162.00 Lakhs**.
Further details of the tender can be obtained from website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E-Procurement"** on or after **28.03.2023.**

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Sd- General Manager(Civil), Corporate Office. BESCOM, K. R. Circle. Bengaluru.-560001.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.

No.: EE/RDWS&SD/HPT/JJM/E-Proc Tender/JE/2022-23/3508 Dated:24.03.2023

E-tender Notification-27/2022-23.
(KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Harapanahalli hereby invites the tender for FY-2022-23 JJM FHTC (Retrofitting) works in Harapanahalli 02 Work , Kudligi 02 Works , Hosapete 02 Works of Vijayanagara District through e-procurement. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(www. eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Website**. The period to receive the tender from eligible bidders is from **24-03-2023 to 05-04-2023 at 5.10PM** and date of **opening of technical bid is on 06-03-2023 at 5.10 PM, opening of Financial bid is on 10.04.2023 at 10.00 AM & Pre bid meeting is held on 28.03.2023 at 11.00 AM** in the office of, Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division Hospet Vijayanagara District For further more information contact above said Office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District
DIPR/Vijayanagar/452/KSMCA/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192–264669
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– **No: EE/ KNNL/ BCD-5/DVG/PB-4/4701/2022-23 / 3717/10 Dated: 25.03.2023**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ/ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ **KW-2 (**Standard tender Bid Document)ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು, ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 36455 ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2023 ರಿಂದ 01.04.2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.35 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.04.2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.40 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತ–50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :–1 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/1098/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23 **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.**

Dwindling allies

Taiwan is facing pressure as China's relations with the U.S. deteriorate

By formally establishing diplomatic relations with China on March 26, 2023, Honduras has joined a growing list of countries that have recently switched recognition from Taipei to Beijing. Taiwan now has only 12 countries, besides the Vatican, with which it has diplomatic ties, including four small Pacific island nations, Eswatini in southern Africa, Paraguay, and six central American and Caribbean nations. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who signed the communiqué with his Honduran counterpart Eduardo Reina, said it showed Honduras made "a choice to stand on the right side of history...". Taiwan has accused Honduras of seeking financial assistance as a precondition to continue relations, and President Tsai Ing-wen said, after the switch, that Taiwan "will not engage in a meaningless contest of dollar diplomacy with China". She also accused China of "persistently [using] any and all means to suppress Taiwan's international participation, intensify its military intimidations... and disrupt regional peace".

The switch by Honduras, as well as Taiwan's concerns about its shrinking international space, point to the growing stress on the current status quo across the Taiwan Strait. The status quo has generally served both sides across the strait well, preserving peace against tall odds. In Taiwan, a thriving democracy with a highly developed economy, the status quo remains the popular choice for most people, according to numerous public opinion surveys. A minority support Taiwan declaring independence or unification with China. However, both Beijing and Taipei have been accusing the other of changing this status quo. In Taipei's view, Beijing has exerted growing diplomatic pressure to isolate Taiwan as well as stepped up military muscle-flexing, as seen in exercises that surrounded the island last year following the visit of then U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In Beijing's view, the ruling DPP in Taipei, with the support of Washington, bears responsibility for the tensions by pursuing de facto independence. Beijing had warmer relations with the previous KMT regime, with a landmark meeting between leaders Xi Jinping and Ma Ying-jeou in 2015. The Xi government has warned the U.S. that Taiwan remains a red line for China, but with worsening relations between the two countries, Taiwan has yet again emerged as a friction point, as seen by the Pelosi visit last year. Beijing continues to refuse to rule out the use of force for what it calls reunification, should Washington or Taipei cross what it sees as a red line. The tussle between the world's two biggest powers has left the 23 million people of a vibrant and prosperous island caught in the middle.

Golden fist

Indian women boxers, with their gold haul, should inspire others

Indian women boxers collected four gold medals – like their predecessors in 2006, M.C. Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, K.C. Lekha and R.L. Jenny – in the Delhi World championships to make an emphatic statement ahead of the Hangzhou Asian Games, a qualifying event for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Seventeen years ago, when India recorded its best ever showing of four golds, one silver and three bronzes, the event was still young and women's boxing was six years away from making its Olympics debut. The current performance of four golds, when the sport is in the Olympics and the event receiving 300-plus entries from 65 countries (this despite the boycott by some prominent nations as Russian and Belarusian athletes were participating under their flags amid the Ukraine war) is remarkable as it has propelled the third-time host to top the table. Golden girls Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) had different accomplishments but needed to prove themselves again. Nitu, a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, was keen on making a mark at the elite level. Nikhat, the 52kg World champion, who came down to an Olympic weight and was unseeded, had to face six tough opponents and assert herself in the new class to become the second Indian after Mary to win more than one World title. Olympic medallist Lovlina, also a two-time World bronze medallist, was determined to establish herself in a new Olympic weight. Thirty-year-old Saweety, a 2014 World silver medal, wanted to underscore that she was no less. Some exciting talents that included 19-year-old Preeti Sai Pawar (54kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (60kg), impressed everyone. With multiple boxers vying for each spot, the coaches face a 'good problem' in the build-up to the Olympics.

The event, demonstrating the competitiveness and appeal of women's boxing, should encourage the International Boxing Association (IBA), which is in conflict with the International Olympic Committee due to its exclusion from the Olympics over various issues. The IBA, monitored on site by an independent McLaren team, tried to ensure transparency and fairness. It took action against below-par match officials and athletes who seemingly enjoyed an unfair advantage. It offered a lucrative prize purse, including $100,000 to each winner, and financial support to boxers as an incentive to boost participation. The successful conduct of the event, barring the odd blip, has encouraged the IBA to look at India, a potential market, as a boxing destination. Eyeing a better performance in the Olympics, the Boxing Federation of India's desire to stage more elite events will inspire the boxing community further.

Nepal, a crucible of fragile coalitions

Krishna Hachhethu

is Professor of Political Science, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

In a short span of time since being in power from December 25, 2022, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', supremo of the Maoist Centre (MC), has had to face a vote of confidence twice – on January 10, 2023 and again on March 20. Though it would seem unusual, it is not an unexpected happening given the state of disarray contemporary Nepali politics is in after the general election in November 2022.

As in the earlier three general elections, the November 2022 election too resulted in a hung Parliament, where the Nepali Congress (NC), the Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) and the MC were placed first, second and third, respectively, in the House of Representatives. The smaller parties and independents have a combined strength of 76 seats.

The NC-led five-party ruling alliance (formed in July 2021 with the aim of checking the rise of K.P. Oli and his party, the UML) consolidated further with a pre-poll alliance, thus gaining in the elections in two ways. This camp scored a majority, falling short by only two seats, in the 275-member House; the net result is that each of the alliance partners gained more than what they could have achieved in their individual capacity. But when this alliance was about to form a government, things crumbled, which was not unexpected.

In the first instance, Sher Bahadur Deuba, President of the NC, did not keep his word in giving 'Prachanda' prominence as head of the post-election government. He relied on Mr. Oli's false assurance to back the NC's plan B, i.e., invoke Article 76(3) of the Constitution that has a provision for the formation of a minority government by the largest party in Parliament.

In the second instance, 'Prachanda' has a track record of being a leader who shifts stands for the sake of power, an example being his move from being a lead actor of a radical/progressive/pro-identity group to admission into the NC-UML-led conservative camp in 2015, at a critical time of Constitution making. There was also a break up of the alliance with the UML in 2016, and again in 2021 (after sensing that Mr. Oli was not honouring an agreement to hand over premiership in his favour) to team up with the NC. There was also a pre-poll alliance with the UML in the 2017 general election despite his party finding a place in the Deuba-led cabinet.

The ambition of 'Prachanda' to become the first Prime Minister in a power-sharing arrangement by rotation of premiership was fulfilled by the UML; consequently, a new seven-party coalition government was formed. This lasted for only two months, which was not unexpected because of the incompatibility within the Prachanda-Oli team.

An ambitious 'Prachanda' had to govern under the shadow of a hawkish Mr. Oli, whose will prevailed in even the distribution of cabinet portfolios (the Prime Minister's party did not get strategic portfolios such as home, finance, and foreign affairs). The UML, with 78 seats in the House, dominated the MC with 32 seats. Fringe coalition partners took sides with Mr. Oli. Surrounded by UML-men in strategic posts such as speaker of the House, chair of the National Assembly, chief justice of the Supreme Court, and even the heads of all 12 constitutional commissions (auxiliary government), Prime Minister 'Prachanda' was close to being a toothless tiger. To counter the UML's high-handedness in state affairs, 'Prachanda' used the election of President to escape, for which he had to breach an earlier agreement to support the UML's candidate.

In a confidence vote in support of 'Prachanda' on January 10, 2023, the NC indicated that it was aligned with the MC's game-plan which, in retrospective, was the first step in damage control, kept it out of power despite being the largest party in the federal Parliament and also with four out of seven provincial Assemblies.

A 'Prachanda'-led 10-party ruling coalition is in the making, but its survival and longevity are the key issues

Politics and the President

The post of the President of the republic of Nepal has transformed itself to become lucrative. Both Ram Baran Yadav, the first President and former General Secretary of the NC, and his successor, Vidya Devi Bhandari, the former Vice-Chair of the UML, enjoyed power beyond the ceremonial role assigned to the head of state in a parliamentary democracy. There is much evidence to show the President blocking Cabinet decisions on account of the Prime Minister being from a different political affiliation.

'Prachanda' wanted to retain a seven-party coalition government while choosing a person of his choice for presidency – which eventually went to the NC leader, Ram Chandra Poudel. But by withdrawing from the government on February 27, 2023, the UML was seen to have overreacted, paving the way for a change in political equations.

There is also another factor. Nepal's power politics are not free from the influence of geo-politics. China's intent is to ensure the return of a Left alliance/government in Nepal so that the Himalayan state moves from a network under the Belt and Road Initiative to become a part of the Global Security Initiative (that was put forth by Chinese President Xi Jinping). The United States and India are aware of the impact of such a possibility in the Asia-Pacific Strategy. It is with reason that a number of high-ranking U.S. officials have been visiting Nepal. The visit by India's Foreign Secretary V.M. Kwatra to Nepal in the second week of March 2023 has had an impact as well.

Short-lived governments

A 'Prachanda'-led 10-party ruling coalition is in the making. But the question will arise about its survival and longevity. Here, a statement by 'Prachanda' about facing a confidence vote for the second time is noteworthy. When UML lawmakers felt that 'Prachanda' might need to face another confidence vote within the next two months, Mr. Oli said, "We have not promised to never cooperate with the NC." In response, 'Prachanda', while recalling his contributions in making Mr. Oli the Prime Minister twice (in November 2015 and February 2018), and Mr. Oli's support for his election as the Prime Minister in December 2022, said it was the UML that needed to be reminded of reciprocity one more time in the future

This highlights Nepal's past experiences and experiments. No government formed since the dawn of democracy in Nepal, in 1951, has survived its full term. Even the one-party majority government lasted for 18 months in 1959-1960, and for three years in 1991-1994 and 1999-2002. It has been bad in the case of coalition governments, especially the ones led by the third largest party. It is no exaggeration to say that the average life of a coalition government in Nepal is nine months, and a 'Prachanda'-led coalition government is unlikely to be an exception.

For the sake of a stable government, the architect of the new Constitution in 2015 worked on making a no-confidence motion a complex and complicated process. It could not be entertained in the first two years of the government formation (if it happens any time after two years of rule but fails to endorse such a motion, it cannot be rejuvenated for the next one year. This increases to another one year if there is a failure of such a motion). To do justice to this provision, it is sensible to amend the Constitution to ensure that the Prime Minister of a coalition government should be from the party with the largest number of seats among the alliance partners, in Parliament.

This helicopter programme cannot go into a tailspin

K.P. Sanjeev Kumar

is a former naval aviator (Commander) and experimental test pilot

The chequered history of India's indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) touched a low when a Dhruv (IN-709) in the Indian Navy's newly-acquired fleet of ALH Mk-III MRs was in the news on March 8, 2023. The 'maritime role' (MR) helicopter, which was on a routine flight, reportedly experienced a "sudden loss of power and rapid loss of height" close to the coast of Mumbai in the forenoon. The three member crew managed to carry out an unplanned ditching (a forced or precautionary landing on water), exited the craft and were recovered safely.

This is the first accident involving the Indian Navy's ALH fleet since the Intensive Flying and Trials Unit (IFTU) was set up at the Indian Navy air station, INS Garuda, in Kochi, Kerala, in 2003. While there have been about 17 major accidents involving the ALH being used in other services, the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard have managed to keep their slate clean till this year. However, there was another incident, on March 26, when an Indian Coast Guard ALH Mk-III MR (CG-855) on a test flight, crashed at Cochin International Airport soon after takeoff from the Coast Guard base at the airport.

What caused a brand-new helicopter with less than 600 hours of flight to force land into the sea off Mumbai is now under investigation by a naval board of inquiry. According to reports, members from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also a part of the team.

If one correlates the Indian Navy's statement with available footage, it is evident that the ditching went off well. Initial reports and pictures show the helicopter floating upright using emergency floats that performed their intended purpose. Rescue teams reached the spot without delay and salvage teams used additional floats to enhance the helicopter's buoyancy. Floating cranes lifted the copter in a clean manner and it was brought ashore. The safe outcome indicates good returns on the investments made in modern survival aids, crew training, search and rescue, and crash and salvage operations. All ALH pilots in the Indian armed forces undergo rigorous training in flight simulators.

Possible flaws in India's Advanced Light Helicopter programme need to be fixed quickly, after two accidents in a short span of time

The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard suspended their ALH operations soon after. Within two days of the accident, the entire ALH fleet across the services was grounded for essential safety checks – an indication that the Indian Navy may have found evidence of a potentially serious failure that could affect all marks of the ALH (the major variants, according to its manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), are Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III and Mk-IV). Such a grounding for one-time checks usually follows in the wake of major accidents; it is due to technical reasons and should not be seen as cause for alarm.

The crash at Kochi happened at a time when the services had just begun clearing batches of helicopters to fly. Video footage from Kochi shows the helicopter turning in circles soon after lift-off before crashing onto the runway shoulders. CG-855 is among the first of the 16 Mk-IIIMR inducted by the Coast Guard over the last two years. This accident is likely to impact the span and the duration of the ongoing grounding exercise, one of the longest in recent times.

Focus on possible flaws

Globally, most air accidents (over 80%) are on account of human error. However, some failures are 'one too many' – untenable for a certified helicopter. The ALH fleet has had major accidents that have been caused or attributed to critical failure or breakage in the flight control chain. Such failures will almost always be catastrophic. Certification thus requires a level of reliability and redundancy of these systems to preclude a major failure in the entire lifespan of the fleet. Yet, there have been at least four or five reported cases of a sudden loss of control on the ALH due to breakages in flight control rods (also called 'boosters') that provide longitudinal, lateral and collective control.

The ditching in Mumbai indicates that not enough has been done to fix serious flaws. It is understood that the regulatory body, the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), in Bengaluru, has taken a serious view of the Mumbai accident and the control failures on the ALH.

There is a lot at stake

In the inter-service jostling to meet ambitious 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' targets, no side can afford to lose focus on safety. Both IN-709 and CG-855 are brand new helicopters, each having flown less than 600 to 800 hours. The fleet cannot remain grounded for long as these helicopters are a lifeline to defence personnel in many remote defence posts; these will now have to be serviced by an ageing Chetak/Cheetah fleet. Two accidents in three weeks does not augur well for any side, given that HAL is, by all indications, becoming the one-stop-shop to meet all helicopter needs of the services.

If not fixed in time, possible flaws in design, production, quality control or certification will also impact the civil and export potential of the ALH. It makes eminent sense for all stakeholders to work on a war footing to address design and production failures. There is much more at stake than reputation such as the safety and longevity of all subsequent derivatives (the Light Utility Helicopter, the Light Combat Helicopter, and the Indian Multirole Helicopter) for instance. More than 300 of these machines form the backbone of the vertical lift service in the Indian military. And the customers have nowhere else to go. There has to be quick action.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Politics of elimination'

The conviction of the now former Member of Parliament from Wayanad, Kerala, Rahul Gandhi, and his disqualification from Parliament are bound to raise eyebrows especially as far as the common man is concerned. Conviction and sentencing for defamation followed in quick succession by disqualification are strong indicators of an intolerant system and are signs of dictatorship. Undoubtedly, the law provides for disqualification but there is a constitutional way of doing things which is the hallmark of a healthy democracy. Remedial action has to be taken immediately so that the 'politics of elimination' is avoided and is put on an even keel.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

The conviction of Mr. Gandhi cannot be viewed in a manner the Congress wants everyone to perceive it (Page 1, "Cong. holds satyagraha; MPs, MLAs to wear black today", March 27). On the contrary, the conviction is a result of a party member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who foresaw potential conviction in the utterances of Mr. Gandhi. It is not clear how many such complaints were filed against BJP leaders for their speeches in the past, at least after 2019, by Congress party members. If they did so, this is the time for the details to surface. Instead, a disproportionate reaction now against the verdict may be counterproductive for the Grand Old Party.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Innocent

The passing of the Malayalam actor, Innocent, has created a void that can never be filled (Inside pages, March 27). His style was inimitable and his outstanding performances made him one of the finest character actors in Indian cinema. As a natural actor, he gave life to some of the most loved characterisations in Malayalam cinema. He was (and is) truly an evergreen star, an idol irreplaceable and one whom the film world and film buffs will always remember forever and ever.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

The alleged Modi-Advani relationship referred to in a sentence in an article, "The Opposition needs to take up the gauntlet" (Editorial page, March 27, 2023), should have been the Modi-Adani relationship.

The second deck in a story titled "Honduras establishes ties with China leaving Taiwan with fewer partners" (World page, March 27, 2023) referred to Taiwan as an Asian island country, rather than an Asian island.

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A shared G20 vision for the ocean commons

Shailesh Nayak

is Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

The oceans hold untrammelled opportunities for the prosperity of our planet. It is therefore not surprising that the most prosperous cities and countries are endowed with a coast. The G20 countries together account for around 45% of the world's coastlines and over 21% of the exclusive economic zones (EEZs). The oceans are reservoirs of global biodiversity, critical regulators of the global weather and climate, and support the economic well-being of billions of people in coastal areas. The term 'blue economy' includes not only ocean-dependent economic development, but also inclusive social development and environmental and ecological security. Recognising the contribution of the ocean economy for sustainable development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "To me, the blue chakra in India's flag represents the potential of the... ocean economy."

A host of initiatives

The Government of India has launched bold initiatives to promote the development of a blue economy. The Sagarmala initiative promotes port-led development. The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy encourages domestic ship-building. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is actively engendering a 'blue revolution' through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. The Sagar Manthan dashboard tracks vessels in real-time. The Deep Ocean Mission explores deep-sea resources in the EEZ and continental shelf as well as development of technology for harnessing them. India adopted the Coastal Regulation Zone notification to classify and better manage coastal regions and conserve ecologically sensitive coastal and marine areas including ecosystems. As the host of the World Environment Day in 2018, Mr. Modi gave a clarion call to eliminate single-use plastic. In 2022, the global community rallied together for a multilateral treaty on addressing plastic pollution. The same year, India introduced an amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules banning select single-use plastic items and introduced policies for extended producer responsibility in waste management in order to combat plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

From this position of strength, as part of the India's G20 Presidency, the blue economy is articulated as a key priority area under the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group. The aim is to promote adoption of high-level principles that guide sustainable and equitable economic development through the ocean and its resources, while simultaneously addressing climate change and other environmental challenges. This approach is consistent with Mr. Modi's call for the global adoption of 'Lifestyle for the Environment' that promotes mindful utilisation over mindless consumption patterns.

Over the last decade, the G20 forum has discussed some specific ocean-related issues. These include the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, and the Coral Research and Development Accelerator Platform. Last year, holistic discussions on blue economy were initiated at the Ocean 20 launch in Bali. India's commitment to prioritising oceans and the blue economy under its presidency would ensure continued discussions on this crucial subject and pave the way for future G20 presidencies.

We must also recognise, however, that the ambitious efforts by countries to expand their blue economies are being threatened by intensifying extreme weather events, ocean acidification, and sea level rise. Growing marine pollution, over-extraction of resources, and unplanned urbanisation also pose significant threats to the ocean, coastal and marine ecosystems, and biodiversity. The inherent inter-connectedness of oceans implies that activities occurring in one part of the world could have ripple effects across the globe. Therefore, the responsibility of their protection, conservation and sustainable utilisation lies with all nations. Since the blue economy involves a range of stakeholders and affects several other sectors of the national economy, effective and efficient ocean and blue economy governance also presents a significant challenge.

An important role

In this context, India's G20 presidency would play an important role in promoting individual and collective actions to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable blue economy. The G20 comprises a diverse group of countries with varying national circumstances. Several G20 members have released their strategies for developing and/or expanding their blue economy. This forum presents an excellent opportunity to build an effective communication with all stakeholders to share best practices, foster collaborations for advancements in science and technology, promote public-private partnerships, and create novel blue finance mechanisms. The outcomes of this forum must further inform other international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, etc., that are closely interlinked. The stewardship of oceans is an investment that will sustain future generations. The spirit of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' must unite the global community for the well-being of our ocean commons.

India's G20 presidency would play an important role in promoting individual and collective actions to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable blue economy

A bishop's help to the BJP

A pact with the BJP is not anathema to some church leaders in Kerala

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan
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At an unusual press conference in March, the Kerala leadership of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) spoke about their continual discussions with Christian groups as a natural occurrence. They were quick to rebuff suggestions that Christians in Kerala were sceptical about the motives of the RSS. But in the same breath, they held forth on their reservations about Muslim organisations in the State.

A few days later, archbishop Joseph Pamplany of the Thalassery Archdiocese of the Syro-Malabar Church kicked up a political storm when he said farmers in Kerala would join hands to send a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member to the Lok Sabha if the Centre increased the price of natural rubber to ₹300, which is more than double the price now.

The bishop stuck to his guns despite criticism. The BJP, which has been trying to woo the Christians, sought to cash in on his remark by saying it indicated the party's growing acceptance among Christians. The Congress downplayed it as an emotional outburst while the Left slammed the remark. The rival P.J. Joseph and Jose K. Mani factions of the Kerala Congress, which have a support base in the central Kerala rubber belt, saw the comment as a reflection of the sentiments of the plantation community and an expression of dissatisfaction at the Centre's apathy towards the sector, respectively. The numerically strong Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese of the Syro Malabar Church hauled the bishop over the coals in its mouthpiece, *Sathyadeepam*, for his short-sightedness and for sidestepping the larger problems of settler-farmers in hill districts.

The bishop's statement would have been an exaggeration given the current price of rubber and the electoral history of Kerala, but there is no denying that it has given the BJP a shot in the arm. Read along with the openly anti-Muslim positions – mostly flagging the 'love jihad' bogey – taken by an 'elite' section of the Church in the recent past, and the meetings held by some leaders of the Roman Catholic and Syrian Orthodox churches with the BJP, the party would be only too happy to foster the perception. The BJP has been able to forge alliances with leaders such as Kerala Congress renegade P.C. George and gain the confidence of some anti-Muslim leaders of the Roman Catholic Church with an eye on Catholic votes in parts of central Travancore.

It is a fact that the BJP's central leadership is steering the outreach to the Christians in Kerala as the State unit of the party lacks the standing and resourcefulness to sway the Church leadership. The top echelons of the party realise that a pact with the community is the only way for them to break their electoral jinx in the State. But this is easier said than done.

The Syrian Jacobite Church, traditionally perceived as a pocket borough of the Left Front, has reaffirmed its support for the CPI(M) in the wake of the State government's move to bring a legislation to end its century-old stand-off with the Orthodox Church. This has naturally riled the Orthodox group over which a rudderless Congress has a waning influence. Through confabulations and tacit alliances in central Travancore, the party is trying to wrest that space from the Congress.

The Kerala Congress parties aligned with the CPI(M)-led Left and the Congress-led United Fronts are facing the challenge of loss of identity in their one-time strongholds with the exodus of the youth to other countries in search of better livelihood options. The absence of tall leaders in these identity-driven parties is a concern, and the bleak future of the rubber economy isn't helping their cause either.

Attacks on Christians elsewhere in India is a talking point in Kerala polity, too, and it has put the BJP slightly on the back foot. But to the party's relief, many affluent and elite Christians are unfazed by this. To make it easier for the community, at the BJP's instance, a new Christians-led political party is being talked about in the central Kerala region which, as the grapevine goes, would enjoy the implicit backing of some church leaders as well.

While the Congress-led alliance would be the casualty of such a move, it doesn't seem to have woken up to it. But the question is whether the members of this class-ridden, politically divided community would be willing to toe the line of the church leaders for whom a pact with the BJP is not anathema.

What explains India's poor COVID-19 booster coverage

The fact that a significant share of health workers chose not to get the booster dose hints at complacency

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. on Monday, India recorded more than 1,800 new COVID-19 cases – twice the number recorded a week ago. This is the third spike since the Omicron wave in January 2022. Each rise is accompanied by a discussion on hastening the administration of booster doses, which were made available in January 2022.

While there is a jump in cases, movement restrictions and mask mandates have disappeared. Also, since the first two vaccine shots were administered to the population over a year ago, their efficacy would have waned by now. This is why the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recommended that people should be up to date with their booster shots. However, even though booster doses have been available for the past 63 weeks, only 16% of the Indian population has taken it.

Chart 1 shows the % share of India's population that has been administered one dose, two doses, and the precautionary/booster dose. In the first 63 weeks after the first dose was introduced, 70% of the population was partially vaccinated. In the first 63 weeks after the second dose was introduced, 60% were fully vaccinated. But the share that has received the precautionary doses is only 16%. The booster dose coverage might have been even lower if not for a 75-day long special booster drive.

The response to booster doses has been slow globally. The Philippines has given a booster dose to just 18.8% of its population, similar to India. However, other countries which saw disastrous waves have notably higher booster rates. Brazil, for example, has administered booster doses to 58.7% of its population. Of the 100 nations for which booster coverage data was available, India is ranked 68. Nepal (30%), Bangladesh (39.4%), Brazil (58.7%) are some of the notable countries which are ranked above India, whereas South Africa (7.2%) and Russia (14.1%) are among those ranked below India (**Chart 2**).

Is hesitancy a reason for low booster coverage? A COVID-19 vaccine acceptance survey, conducted across 23 countries in June 2022 and published by *Nature* in January 2023, shows that hesitancy did not play a major role in India's slow booster coverage. Only 10.3% of Indians said 'no' on being asked whether they had received a booster dose or said 'unsure/no opinion', 'somewhat disagree' or 'strongly disagree' on being asked whether they would take a booster dose when it was made available to them **(Chart 3)**. This means that 90% were willing to take, or had taken, the booster dose. In countries such as Russia, South Korea and France, on the other hand, hesitancy has derailed coverage.

If hesitancy is not a factor and vaccine shortage has not been reported in recent months, could complacency be the reason for low booster coverage? **Chart 4** looks at the booster coverage of front-line workers (FLWs) and health care workers (HCWs) who are the first beneficiaries of vaccines and continue to be in close contact with COVID-19 patients. Among HCWs, 97% of those eligible for the second dose took it, whereas only 70% of those eligible for the booster dose did so. Among FLWs, 96% of those eligible for the second dose took it, whereas only 78% of those eligible for the booster dose did so. Among those aged above 60, only 39% of those eligible for booster doses took them (as of October 28, 2022, the most recent date for which the split was available). The fact that a significant share of those with the highest risk of exposure chose not to get the booster dose suggests complacency. This could be because a bulk of them were infected and expected to have developed immunity.

Dosed off?

The charts are based on data collated from ourworldindata.org, press releases issued by the Health Ministry and a survey of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance published in the *Nature* journal

Chart 1 | The chart shows the % of India's population covered with the first dose, second dose and precautionary dose

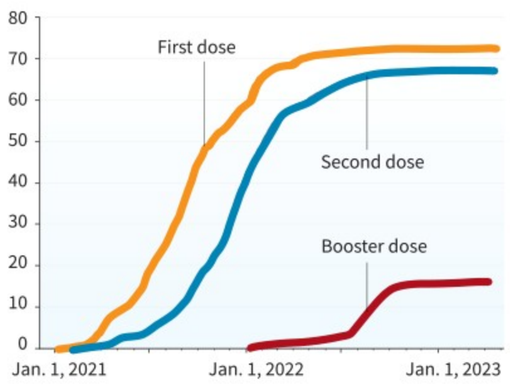


Chart 2 | The chart shows the % of a country's population covered with the precautionary dose currently

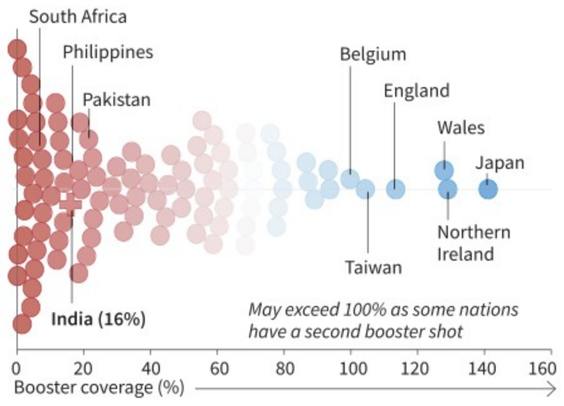
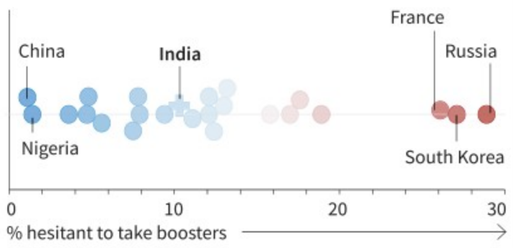


Chart 3 | The chart shows the % of respondents who did not take booster shots or were unwilling to take them



The global sample of 23,000 respondents included 1,000 participants from each of the 23 countries surveyed. Overall, booster hesitancy among those vaccinated was 12.1%

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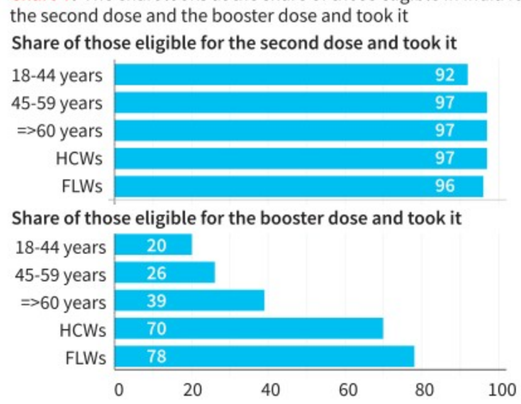
Chart 4 | The chart looks at the share of those eligible in India for the second dose and the booster dose and took it



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 28, 1973

Loudspeaker war with Indian troops suspended

New Delhi, March 27: A relatively minor but nevertheless significant event, which has aroused some new hopes of an impending thaw in Sino-Indian relations, is the sudden suspension of the loud-speaker warfare across the strategic mountain passes of Nathu La, Jelep La and Cho La on the Sikkim border where the Indian and Chinese troops face each other at the eye level in a state of constant alert all the year round. The Chinese have abruptly stopped the provocative propaganda campaign they have been carrying on relentlessly since the mid-sixties in a futile attempt to brainwash the Indian troops and foment discord between the officers and jawans by ridiculing their class distinctions. The Indian Army retaliated with its own counter-propaganda drive sneering at Chinese communism with satirical skits interspersed with lilting pop music taped in the Far East for drawing out the intensely indoctrinated but otherwise home-sick Chinese troops stationed in the wilderness of the Chumbi valley along these mountain heights. And over the years a sort of sardonic humour had developed over this semi-musical warfare which often helped to relieve the tensions of the opposing forces on this bitterly cold front. The Chinese decision to call off this loud-speaker warfare followed the recent suspension of the daily anti-Indian tirades over Peking Radio which has lately been paying very little attention to the political developments in the sub-continent other than broadcasting routine news items. The policymakers in Delhi took the cue for what it was worth and made the reciprocal gesture of discontinuing the Indian counter-propaganda campaign.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 28, 1923

In America

New York, Mar. 27: The port surveyor has ordered that henceforth every bottle of liquor brought to this country by steamship passengers, shall be seized and a fine of five dollars per bottle imposed on the owners unless the passengers prove that the liquor was indeed for medicinal purposes. When the amount of liquor does not exceed a quart, it shall be allowed.

From Page One

Trinamool joins Congress-led protest

"This resolve will be reflected in joint actions outside Parliament beginning NOW," Mr. Ramesh tweeted. Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were also present at the dinner meeting.

Explaining why the Trinamool, after days of remaining isolated from the rest of Opposition, decided to join in on Monday, Derek O' Brien, its Parliamentary Party leader in the Rajya Sabha, said: "The BJP has crossed the line. Democracy, Parliament, federalism and the Constitution have to be saved. The Opposition is united in this cause."

At the same time, by sending in MPs and not the floor leaders for these events, the party has signalled that it isn't ready to go all the way through yet. The party maintains that the Congress can't have double standards, expecting collaboration in Delhi while making personal attacks against the Trinamool leadership in State. They are particularly miffed with Congress State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi attended the morning strategy meeting, but the party did not send a representative for the Opposition march or for the dinner. Party president Uddhav Thackeray, while addressing a rally at Malegaon on Sunday, categorically warned Mr. Gandhi not to insult Savarkar who is a "God-like figure" and not to make statements that can create fissures.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi, which had been keeping away from the Opposition morning strategy meeting, especially since it is hosted by Mr. Kharge in his room inside Parliament, made an exception on Monday, when the party's Rajya Sabha leader Keshav Rao walked into the meeting.

PPF, Sukanya Samriddhi rate hike unlikely

At the time, the PPF rate was brought down to 7.1% from 7.9%, while the SSA's returns were pared to 7.6%. The returns of these two schemes have remained static even as rates on some other small savings instruments were hiked for the third and fourth quarters of 2022-23.

"We disagree with the Shyamala Gopinath Committee's formula in respect of those items where tax advantage is the main consideration," a senior Finance Ministry official told *The Hindu*, stressing that incomes from both the PPF and the SSA are tax-free.

The Gopinath panel's formula, he stressed, ignored the fact that the comparable government securities to whose yields small savings rates are linked, are taxable. "People need to take a call on whether they want tax breaks or higher returns. If it's the latter, they can opt for the other small savings schemes that are taxable," a top government official told *The Hindu*.

A 10 to 30 basis points (bps) hike was granted for five of 12 small savings schemes for the October-December 2022 quarter, while eight schemes' returns were raised by 20 bps to 110 bps for the current quarter. One basis point equals 0.01%.

As per the formula prescribed by a panel led by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath, the PPF rate should have been hiked to 7.72% and the Sukanya Samriddhi Account's returns ought to have been raised to 8.22% during the October to December quarter.

Yields on government bonds have not changed significantly over recent months and a similar hike may be deduced from the formula for the coming April to June 2023 quarter, whose rates will be announced this week. But except for political economy considerations that may come into play, hikes are unlikely for these two schemes.

"Almost all the investors in these two schemes are taxpayers and the tax-adjusted yield is much higher than the 7.1% paid out on PPF. For those in the highest income tax bracket of around 39%, the return is roughly 11.6%," the official pointed out.

"Even if you're in the 20% income tax slab, the returns on PPF and SSA are much higher than any comparable investment. So we are giving more than that margin through the tax benefit, that's why we are neither raising these schemes' rates, nor are we inclined to do so," the official stressed.

Gujarat, Centre get notice in Bilkis case

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A.M. Singhvi and advocate Vrinda Grover, for other petitioners, argued that both the trial judge in Mumbai and the CBI, which was the prosecuting agency, had disagreed with the proposal to release the convicts. The Union government had, however, endorsed the early release. Ms. Grover said the convicts had to pay a fine of ₹34,000 or face 34 years in prison. "The fine has not been paid. That sentence was never served," she submitted.

The counsel for one of the convicts, advocate Rishi Malhotra, said the other petitioners were third parties who had no *locus standi* in the case. However, the court had earlier made it clear that the question of *locus standi* of the third parties did not arise anymore as Ms. Bano herself had approached the court against the release.

Mr. Malhotra also argued that Gujarat had decided the plea for early release on the basis of a Supreme Court judgment in May 2022. This judgment allowed the State to consider the pleas for early release under the State's Premature Release Policy of 1992. Incidentally, the top court recently dismissed a petition filed by Ms. Bano to review the May 2022 judgment.

Affinity test is not a litmus test to decide caste claim: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An affinity test cannot be the litmus test to decide a caste claim, the Supreme Court has held in a judgment. A three-judge Bench, led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, said an affinity test is not an essential part of the process of the determination of correctness of a caste or tribe claim in every case.

An affinity test mandates the study and preparation of a report by authorities on caste/tribe claims based on the peculiar anthropological and ethnological traits, deities, rituals, customs, mode of marriage, death ceremonies, methods of burial of dead bodies, etc., of the particular caste or tribe and the applicants knowledge of them.

The judgment authored by Justice Abhay Oka pointed out that an applicant may have "good knowledge" about these traits without belonging to the particular caste or tribe.

Nepal on high alert as India says Amritpal crossed border

Delhi informs Kathmandu that the absconding pro-Khalistan group leader could be trying to escape through the neighbouring country; Nepal police sends a team to border-crossing areas

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Nepal on Monday put out a high alert on the possibility of wanted pro-Khalistani group chief Amritpal Singh entering the country over the land border, in response to a special request from India.

In its letter, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu "informed" the Nepal Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Amritpal Singh, the leader of the separatist group *Waris Punjab De*, is on a "Look Out Circular" in India, and is at present believed to be hiding in Nepal and could use his Indian passport or that of another country to escape through Nepal. The letter, a copy of which was seen by *The Hindu*, has reportedly been circulated to all government departments concerned and other authorities.

Supporters of 'Waris Punjab De' chief Amritpal Singh stage a protest at the Golden Temple on Monday. AFP

Describing Amritpal Singh's physical features and enclosing recent photographs, the Embassy asked Nepali authorities not to permit him to travel through the country, and to inform immigration officials if they apprehend him. Nepali newspapers quoted senior officials as saying that a team from Nepali police's Special Bureau and Intelligence Bureau have been dispatched to the border crossing areas between the countries.

"We have received a written note along with a copy of his passport from the [Indian] embassy suspecting that Amritpal Singh might have entered Nepal," said Kamal Prasad Pandey, the Nepali Immigration Department's Information Officer. The MEA did not confirm sending the letter and declined to comment on the request to Nepal for action against Mr. Singh in case he is apprehended there.

(*With inputs from PTI*)

Protests at Times Square

NEW YORK

A large number of Khalistan supporters staged a protest at the iconic Times Square here to express support for the fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh. The protesters took out a car rally that originated from the Baba Makhan Shah Lubana Sikh Centre in the Richmond Hill neighbourhood and culminated at Times Square in the heart of Manhattan city on the afternoon of March 26 amid tight security. PTI

IIT-B student death case: police find suicide note

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Mumbai Police, investigating the death of an 18-year-old Dalit student Darshan Solanki by suicide inside the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay campus, on Monday, said they had found a note written by the victim, blaming a classmate for this drastic step.

The police said that the classmate named by Darshan in his purported note is a suspect in the case, saying they are now in the process of getting an FIR registered under Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC.

"We have also found WhatsApp chats between Darshan and the classmate named in the note. It appears as if something happened between the two of them either on the day of his death [February 12] or the night before," a senior officer said, adding that they now believed Darshan was harassed by fellow students on campus.

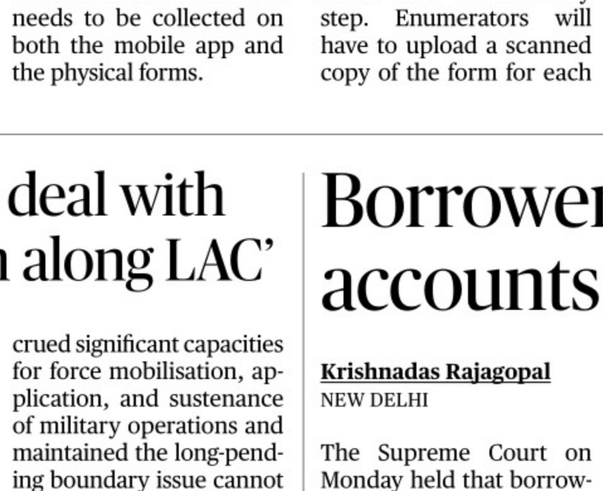
As Bihar readies for caste survey, statisticians worry about data

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With the second phase of Bihar's caste-based survey set to begin from April 15, training of field enumerators is on in full swing.

The mobile app to be used in the second phase - Bijaga (*Bihar Jaati Adharit Ganana*) - is ready, with 17 columns and a list of 214 caste names. Statisticians are, however, worried about securing the integrity of the data they are supposed to collect, after being directed not to insist on any kind of verification documents.

Both the physical form for this part of the survey and the form on the mobile app have the same columns that provide for collecting personal details of residents, including caste name and religion along with a slew of socio-economic indicators.



Counting of people: An enumerator collecting information from residents during a caste-based survey in Bihar on January 7. PTI

Enumerators and district officials have been directed that the information needs to be collected on both the mobile app and the physical forms.

"The physical forms will have a unique barcode and form number, each corresponding to a resident's information on the app. We will also use the physical forms as a confirmatory step. Enumerators will have to upload a scanned copy of the form for each resident so information can be cross-checked," an official said.

During the training for the second phase, held in the third week of March in Patna, the State government directed district officials not to insist on any kind of verification documents. Statisticians have said that this might lead to problems.

" Ultimately, the exercise will only be a success if we can ensure integrity of data collected and are able to publish it accurately," a senior statistician, part of the exercise in Central Bihar, said.

Officials in the General Administration Department did not respond to queries about how the integrity of the data will be checked.

No let-up in hate speech and violence, say Muslim leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a letter to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, prominent Muslim leaders and intellectuals, who are engaged in a dialogue with the organisation to bridge the communication gap between the minority community and the RSS, said there was virtually no let-up in the constant barrage of hate speech, calls for genocide and acts of violence against Muslims.

The group urged Mr. Bhagwat and the Union and the State governments to "speak more" condemning the cases of attacks on Muslims.

Among the representatives of the minority community were former Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung and former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi.

Detailing the urgency of writing to Mr. Bhagwat, who has denied a meeting before June citing previous commitments, the members said the recent 'anti-Muslim' marches in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh were full of hate and included calls for boycott of Muslim businesses.

They said these rallies and speeches took place in the presence of the police but there was no action.

The Hindu reached out to the RSS spokesperson for a comment, but there was no response.

'Prepared to deal with any situation along LAC'

Press Trust of India
PUNE

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande on Monday said transgressions remain the potential trigger for escalations along the Line of Actual Control with China, and asserted India has adequate reserves and was prepared to deal with any contingency.

He said China has accrued significant capacities for force mobilisation, application, and sustenance of military operations and maintained the long-pending boundary issue cannot be divorced from bilateral relations.

General Pande said Chinese attempts to carry out transgressions across the LAC remain a matter of concern for India, but the Army's preparedness remains of a high order.

Borrowers should be heard before accounts are classified as fraud: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that borrowers must be given an opportunity to be heard before their accounts are classified as fraud.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the civil consequences of an account being declared as fraud under the Reserve Bank of India (Frauds Classification and Reporting by Commercial Banks and Select FIs) Directions, 2016, or the central bank's 'Master Directions on Fraud' amount to "civil death" to borrowers. The principle of natural justice – '*audi alteram partem*' (hear the other side) – demands that borrowers should be given a chance to be heard first.

"Since the classification of an account as fraud entails serious civil consequences for the borrower, the Directions must be construed reasonably by reading into them the requirement of observing the principles of natural justice," the CJI held.

HC's view

The judgment came in appeals filed by the Reserve Bank and other banks against a Telangana High Court decision that the principles of natural justice must be read into the provisions of the Master Directions on Frauds.

"Classification of the borrower's account as fraud under the Master Directions on Frauds virtually leads to a credit freeze for the borrower...," the apex court said.

High Court seeks ChatGPT's response on bail plea

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

As the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to grow globally, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, in a first-of-its-kind attempt, sought a response from ChatGPT – an AI chatbot – to assess the worldwide view on bail when the assault was laced with "cruelty".

The court, however, made it clear that the AI reference in the matter is only intended to present a broader picture on bail jurisprudence, where cruelty is a factor. Justice Anoop Chitkara, in the order, made it abundantly clear that any reference to ChatGPT and any observation made is neither an expression of opinion on the merits of the case nor shall the trial court advert to these comments.

The case pertained to the alleged murder of Ramandeep Singh in Ludhiana district in 2020. The accused had approached the court for bail. Justice Chitkara, while dismissing the bail plea, observed that causing death is cruel but if the cruelty causes death,

The AI reference was intended to present a broader picture on bail jurisprudence, where cruelty is a factor, the court said

the tables turn and when the physical assault is done with an element of cruelty, the parameters of bail change. "When the offence is heinous and the crime is brutal, cruelty becomes one of the factors in granting or refusing bail. The impact of individuals who act with cruelty is devastating not only for those on whom the direct harm and pain is inflicted but also on a systemic level. Cruel individuals contribute to sustain the greater deficiencies of society like gender, economic and social inequalities..."

The question put forth to ChatGPT was, "What is the jurisprudence on bail when the assailants assaulted with cruelty?"

ChatGPT responded: "The jurisprudence on bail for cases where the assailants have assaulted with cruelty will depend on the specific circumstances of the case and the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction where the case is being tried. However, in general, if the assailants have been charged with a violent crime that involves cruelty, such as murder, aggravated assault, or torture, they may be considered a danger to the community and a flight risk. In such cases, the judge may be less inclined to grant bail or may set the bail amount very high to ensure that the defendant appears in court and does not pose a risk to public safety."

SC to hear plea against Agnipath scheme

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea challenging a Delhi High Court order that upheld the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment into the armed forces. The petitioner's counsel said the plea relates to a halt in recruitment. The court posted the matter for April 10.

'Action against Rahul reflects authoritarian nature of BJP'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau accused the BJP of using the criminal defamation route to target the Opposition, and said that the haste with which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as an MP reflects its "abhorrent authoritarian character".

This, it said, comes on top of the "brazen" misuse of Central agencies to target Opposition leaders.

Party general secretary Sitaram Yechury made a distinction between "person" and "issue". "Our sympathy is to the issue. Any step that is violative of their [Constitutional] principles, on anybody, we will stand up in defence of the rights," he said.

Amid protests, Finance Bill approved by both Houses

It was passed with a fresh amendment to rectify an error in the Securities Transaction Tax rates; the Rajya Sabha also returned the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill to the Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday completed its budgetary exercise for 2023-24, with both Houses of Parliament approving the Finance Bill, 2023, along with a fresh amendment introduced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to rectify an error in the Securities Transaction Tax rates on option contracts in the earlier version of the Bill.

The Rajya Sabha was initially adjourned within a minute after it assembled at 11 a.m., without conducting any business, as a stalemate continued with both sides sloganeering against the other. The Opposition members were dressed in black, as a mark of protest against the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as an MP. When it reconvened, the Upper House returned the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill to the Lok Sabha on Monday without any discussion.

Voicing out: Opposition MPs raising slogans in the Lok Sabha during the second phase of the Budget Session on Monday. ANI

The Opposition raised slogans to protest against Mr. Gandhi's disqualification and insisted on a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe on the irregularities in the Adani Group of companies.

The proceedings lasted for 12 minutes after the House reconvened post-lunch. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar put the Bills to voice vote and they were approved without any discussion.

Later, the amended Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha amid heavy sloganeering by members of Opposition parties.

Papers hurled at Speaker's chair as Opposition MPs protest disqualification

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dressed in black in protest against the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Monday created an uproar by storming into the Well of the House. Two Congress members, T.N. Pratapan and Hibi Eden, who were in the Well holding placards, were seen hurling papers towards Speaker Om Birla's chair, along with their scarves.

Mr. Birla immediately adjourned proceedings until 4 p.m. as the chaos persisted over Mr. Gandhi's disqualification and the Adani issue. "I want to run the House with dignity," the Speaker said.

As soon as the House met for the day, Congress members and those of other Opposition parties, including the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Nationalist Congress Party and National Conference, raised slogans.

Shouting slogans

Opposition MPs were carrying placards that read "Save Democracy", "Dear ED *daro mat*, Adani *par raid karo* (ED don't be scared, raid Adani)" while shouting slogans. When the House reassembled at 4 p.m. to pass an amendment to the Finance Bill, there was intense sloganeering by Congress members over the Adani issue.

There were protests outside the House as hundreds of Youth Congress members, led by its president, Srinivas B.V., tried to march towards Parliament as part of its *Sansad gherao* protests at Jantar Mantar. Later, the YC workers courted arrest and were taken to a police station.

The protests came a day after the Congress organised a '*Sankalp Satyagraha*' at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Raj Ghat, during which Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and invoked the martyrdom of the Gandhi family. Juxtaposing his sister's speech with images of himself carrying the bier of his father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, on his Instagram account, Mr. Gandhi said: "Truth, courage and sacrifice – this is our heritage and this is also our strength".

The Congress will organise 35 press conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday under its 'Democracy Disqualified' series.

Youth Congress activists attempting to cross barricades during a protest against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification, in New Delhi. PTI

Rahul told to vacate house

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was, on Monday, asked to vacate his official residence following his disqualification as a Member of Parliament.

A letter was sent to him by the Lok Sabha Housing Committee asking him to vacate his 12 Tughlaq Lane bungalow by April 22.

According to rules, a disqualified MP is not entitled to a government accommodation and gets a month to vacate the residence. Sources, however, said he can seek an extension from the committee, which is a possible scenario in case he decides to appeal his sentencing in a higher court and it reverses his conviction.

Union Minister hits back at Cong. leader for Savarkar remark

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused Rahul Gandhi of insulting Vinayak 'Veer' Savarkar, and said Mr. Gandhi's behaviour reflected that the Gandhi family considered itself a "class apart, elite and above the Constitution".

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, addressing a press conference, said neither the BJP nor the government had anything to do with Mr. Gandhi's disqualification. "Rahul Gandhi very rightly said that he wasn't Savarkar. If Rahul actually wishes to know Savarkar, then he must go to the Andaman jail and spend time there to realise who Savarkar actually was and the kind of sacrifices he made," he added.

Rahul has disrespected every democratic institution: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who is the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, accused former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi of "disrespecting every democratic institution", and urged him to "come out of his dynastic mindset."

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's headquarters, Mr. Goyal said, "He should come out of this dynastic mindset and realise that no individual is bigger than the country, bigger than the people of India, bigger than the Constitution of India and nobody should consider himself above the law."

He questioned the Congress's protests outside Parliament, asking what the protests were about, since Mr. Gandhi had been convicted and sentenced by a court of law.

"Was this demonstration against the court which pronounced the conviction, or against the Supreme Court which had given a judgment stating that any lawmaker sentenced to two years of more in a case would automatically lose his/her membership, or against Rahul Gandhi himself who had torn the Ordinance that would have given relief to legislators after the SC judgement," he said.

Mr. Goyal also demanded an apology from Mr. Gandhi for his "irresponsible statements".

EPFO says it has 'no direct investments in individual stocks'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which manages the retirement savings of crores of formal sector workers, asserted late on Monday that there is no direct investment of EPFO funds in any individual stocks.

The retirement fund manager said it follows "passive investment in equity" by investing in Exchange Traded Funds (ETF), as per the investment pattern set by the Finance Ministry.

In a communique to *The Hindu*, the EPFO said the headline of an article that appeared in this newspaper on Monday "is misleading as it gives the impression that EPFO's subscribers are captive investors in stocks of Adani Group of Companies".

Stating that it has been investing in ETFs since 2015, the EPFO said its ETF investments with underlying indices as Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex are allocated "in the ratio 50:50". The "composition of these indices is not determined by EPFO, but by respective index providers".

"ETFs are managed by respective Asset Management Companies and are strictly regulated by SEBI... Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex are twin barometers of India's Financial Market and are therefore the safest indices for passive investment in equity," it said. "The average five year rolling return of Nifty 50 Index (for the past 10 years) has seen higher returns which has resulted in distribution of higher rate of interest benefiting EPF members," it underlined.

"In light of the above, it is requested to publish... the correct picture so that the readers are not misguided..," it said.

Rahul questions EPFO funds in Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday questioned why public financial institutions handling retirement funds were investing their fund in the Adani Group.

"LIC's capital, to Adani! SBI's capital, to Adani! EPFO's capital too, to Adani! Why is public's retirement money being invested in Adani's companies even after 'Modani' exposed?" he said in a tweet.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.CE-W.B.P.(O) - 35 / 2022-23

The bid for the work of IFB of SI.01 "Widening and strengthening of Talapali - Haraloi- Balam - Barghat - Godhidhipa road (MDR) from 38.000km to 51.100km (from 3.75m to 7.00m carriageway) (MDR) in the District of Sambalpur under State Plan" (Tender ID: 2023_EICCL_86610_1) invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (O) - 35 / 2022-23 is hereby cancelled for better competitive bidding as single bidder found to be responsive in 1st time tender call.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
B-1390: OIPR-34003/11/0089/2223

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1871/04/2022 /V-II/ 9171, dated : 23.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of 245 Persons Capacity Executive Hostel at Plastic Park, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.3487.25 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar months.
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-180/2022-23	05.04.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	26.04.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-5292 OIPR-14003/11/0342/2223

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Under the Department of Energy
Government of Odisha
(ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004)
S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
Website: www.oredaorissa.com , Email: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tender Call Notice No 915 / OREDA Dated: 22/03/2023

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY invites sealed e-tender in two part bidding system from firms for supply, installation, commissioning of 30KW Rooftop Solar Power System at Ekamra College and 15KW Rooftop Solar Power System Rayagada Autonomous college, along with comprehensive maintenance for a period of five years. Details are given below.

1.	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREDA website	22-03-2023
2.	Due date and time for receipt of pre-bid quarries on the RFP	31-03-2023
3.	Date and time for the pre-bid meeting through online mode only. Meeting invite link on Google hangout platform (Link for pre-bid meeting- https://meet.google.com/dmo-wxjb-rex)	03-04-2023 at 11.30 A.M.
4.	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid.	04-05-2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
5.	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for select Bid Forms only	06-05-2023 up to 1.00 P.M.
6.	Due date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	08-05-2023 at 3.00 P.M.
7.	Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable only for the bidders whose Technical Bids shall be responsive.	To be intimated later on

Interested prospective bidder may visit OREDA web site www.oredaorissa.com and www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA for details relating bidding process and all other terms and conditions. The bidder can view the tender documents from www.oredaorissa.com website on free of cost.

Sd/-
Chief Executive
CAD-5300 : OIPR-04065/11/0016/2223

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584 115, Dist: Raichur, State: Karnataka,
Ph: 08537-275740, Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com

TNO.65/22-23 No.HGML/EOI/11/2022-23/CALL-3 Date: 28.03.2023

Tender Notification for Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI)

Expression of Interest (EoI) for hiring the services of a Global Consultancy Agency/Firm for Leaching Plant Automation and Improvement of Sag & Ball Mill overall Efficiency

Interested consultant/consultancy firm/individual consultants shall visit the link www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for necessary details like General conditions, eligibility criteria, etc., The interested agencies need to register with e-procurement GoK, Bengaluru for participating in EoI.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. Pre-bid meeting (Zoom): **08.04.2023, 12.00 PM.**
2. Last date for receipt of bid: **27.04.2023 at 4.00 PM.**
3. Date & Time for Opening of EOI bid: **29.04.2023 at 10.00 AM.**

Sd/- General Manager (Co-Ord)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION – e-TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The OSD & Ex. Officio Director General, Tolly's Nullah Project, KMC invites online tender under "Namami Gange Programme" from experienced Firms/Companies/Individual Contractors/Joint Ventures/Consortium, who have successfully completed the work of similar nature of works within last **7 (seven) years from the date of this NIT in any Govt./Semi-Govt./Govt. Undertakings/ Autonomous Bodies (constituted under the State/Central statute)/Statutory Bodies and Local Bodies is eligible for the under mentioned work:**

e-NIT No.: KMC/D.G.(TNP)/41/2022-2023 dated 28.03.2023.

Sector/Circle/Division and office address: **The O.S.D. & Ex-Officio Director General, Town Planning & Development Department and Tolly's Nullah Project, The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087, West Bengal, India, E-mail: nodalofficer.tnp@gmail.com**

Name of Work: **Pollution Abatement Works for River Ganga at Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Rehabilitation of Existing 50 MLD STP at Keorapukur and other allied works at Kolkata) in West Bengal State.** Estimated Amount: **Rate to be quoted by the bidder (Rate to be quoted including GST, CESS and any other Govt. Statutory taxes as applicable)**. Earnest Money (Rs.): **INR 0.53 Cr.** Time of Completion: **Execution Period – 15 (Fifteen) Months and Operation & Maintenance Period– 15 (Fifteen) Years.** Date of downloading of bid document: **Date – 28.03.2023 at 13.00 hrs. (Through website www.wbtenders.gov.in only).** Bid submission start date (Online): **Date – 28.03.2023 at 13.00 hrs.** Last date & time of submission of tender: **Date – 20.05.2023, Time – Upto 13.00 hrs.** Time and Date of opening technical bids: **Date – 22.05.2023 at 13.00 hrs.** For detail information please visit **www.wbtenders.gov.in** 1206/22-23

Amber Development & Management Authority
Old VidhanSabha Building, Jaipur-302002
Phone Number-01412600032 E Mail-adma.jaipur@gmail.com
No-F-3/Civil-II/ED (W)/NIT-14 (2022-23)/D- 913-17 Date- 21.03.2023

Extension of NIT No-14 (2022-23)

Last date of submission of bid & date of opening of technical bid in context of above said NIT is hereby extended as under:-

Item	Existing Time Lines	Extended Time Lines
Last Date/Time for Submission of Bid	5.00PM of 21-03-2023	6.00PM of 28-03-2023
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	11.00AM of 22-03-2023	11.00AM of 29-03-2023

Raj.Samwad/C/22/16739 Executive Director (Works)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 122/2022-23/KWA/ PHC/TVLA (Id-353/2022). JJM 3rd SLSSC - WSS to Ranni Angadi & Kottanad -Construction of 9M dia: Intake well cum pump House, Approach Bridge, Transformer Building, 400mm DI K9 RWPM, Supply, erection & commissioning of transformer and allied works, Supply & erection of raw water pumpset. **EMD :** Rs. 200000. **Tender fee :** Rs. 13010. **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 18-04-2023, 02:00 pm. **Phone :** 04692600162.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1961-2022-23 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division,
Near BBMP DWCC Remco Layout,
Javaregowdanadoddi Main Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Bengaluru.

No: EE/RI/RRN/TEND/06/2022-23 Date: 27-03-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

BBMP council vide subject No. 13/2020-21 Dated: 07.08.2020 & 453/2022-23 Dated: 08.03.2023 has accorded approval in Principle and Sanctioned Budget under Maintaining of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Road Infrastructure Division RR Nagara Zone - Escrow Account for taking up of the works listed below.

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, BBMP invites tenders from eligible registered Contractors in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads including Footpath excluding Potholes in Rajarajeshwari Nagara and Yeshwanthpura Assembly Constituency Area of RI - RR. Nagara Division.	204.32	3,06,500/-
2	Asphalting of Basaveshwara Bus Stand Road using 25mm Thick Stone Asphalt Mix (Pilot Basis) from Tumkur Main Road (NH-4) to Basaveshwara Bus Stand.	192.50	2,90,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 28-03-2023. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **31-03-2023 upto 16.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - RR Nagara Division, BBMP. 3)** Pre Tender Meeting will be held on **01-04-2023 at 15.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure), 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Benglauru. 4)** Tenders must be Submitted online through the e-Procurement Portal **on or before 17.30 Hrs. on 05-04-2023. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on **06-04-2023 at 16.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, Near BBMP DWCC Remco Layout, Javaregowdanadoddi Main Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure - RR Nagara Division, BBMP.

INBRIEF

5,648 vacant houses converted for urban poor

A total of 5,648 vacant houses built under various government schemes have been converted into 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHC), a scheme which the Centre had announced during the COVID-19 pandemic to help migrant workers and urban poor employed in the informal sector. The Urban Development Ministry has also approved construction of 82,273 new units under the scheme in public-private partnership model.

Amid heavy security, Atiq Ahmed reaches Prayagraj jail

The convoy of criminal-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed, an accused in the murder of Umesh Pal last month, reached Naini central jail in Prayagraj from Sabarmati central jail in Gujarat on Monday evening amid heavy security. The convoy, which left Gujarat on Sunday afternoon, entered Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh before reaching Uttar Pradesh, the home State of Mr. Ahmed. He has been taken to Prayagraj for a court case amid rising pressure to solve the Umesh Pal killing.

Students to get new textbooks from NCERT after a gap of nearly 20 years

Education Ministry officials say the books, based on the NEP 2020, will include attention to the play-way method of teaching, as well as develop problem-solving abilities and improve the social and emotional capacities of children

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

After nearly two decades, school students at all levels will learn from updated textbooks to be introduced in the academic year 2024-25, top officials in the Education Ministry have said. This is in keeping with the National Education Policy, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) released in August 2022.

"Developing textbooks according to the NCF in a year's time is a tall task, but we are up to the challenge," a top official said.

On Monday, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan convened the National Steering Committee meeting to streamline the next steps under the NCF agenda. Currently, the government has released the NCF for pre-school to Class 2, for children aged between three and eight. The framework for other classes is yet to be rolled out.

The NCF, in its guidelines, has emphasised that students' learning should be planned keeping in mind Indian roots.

Correspondingly, textbooks based on the NCF for Class 1 and 2 will be released by March-end.

The new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks will be developed in 22 languages, in consonance with the NEP 2020 perspective of imparting multilingual education. Mr. Pradhan said the NCERT had developed material to feed into the play-way teaching method: the *Jaadui Pitaara* (magic box) would be made available to every school in the form of open education resources.

The officials said that of the 14.8 lakh schools in India, 28,000 are Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), nearly 2,000 Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), and 345 International Baccalaureate (IB) schools. The rest are State Board schools.

Private publishers, including the Oxford University Press (OUP), have already published "NEP 2020 and NCF 2022 aligned" books for preschool and Class 1 and 2.

The 'panchaadi' way

The NCF, in its guidelines, has emphasised that students' learning should be planned keeping in mind Indian roots and has proposed a five-step learning process, or *panchaadi*, for children at the preschool or foundational level.

Panchaadi comprises *aditi* (introduction of a topic), *bodh* (conceptual understanding), *abhyas* (practice), *prayog* (application) and *prasar* (expansion).

"We have adopted this system while designing textbooks for preschoolers. It steers away from rote learning," Sumanta Datta, Managing Director, OUP India, said.

However, Ministry officials feel that private publishers have jumped the gun with the claim that their Class 1 and 2 textbooks are aligned to the NCF 2022.

"How can private publishers release books before NCERT has published their textbooks according to the new NCF guidelines," the official asked.

Through the NCF, the Ministry aims to help students develop their cognitive and critical thinking skills, which involve problem-solving in real-life situations.

Cheetah dies of kidney ailment in Kuno Park

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

Sasha, one of the cheetahs brought from Namibia, died of a kidney ailment on Monday at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, a top Forest Department official said.

The female cheetah, aged four-and-a-half, was among the eight cheetahs translocated from Namibia and housed in the park in Sheopur district since September 17.

"Cheetah Sasha passed away due to a kidney problem as her creatinine level was very high," J.S. Chauhan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), said.

The feline was not keeping well since her arrival and was recently taken back to a quarantine enclosure at the park for treatment, he said.

Sasha's creatinine level was above 400 (an indicator of poor kidney function) which resulted in her death, Mr. Chauhan added.

Centre asks States to be on alert as COVID numbers keep rising

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It advises States and U.T.s to increase preparedness, and ramp up testing and vaccination

The Union Health Ministry on Monday directed the States and Union Territories to be on alert and ensure preparedness for COVID-19 management, in view of the rise in number of infections.

The Ministry noted that several States were reporting higher weekly positivity rates than the national average of 1.39%. Himachal Pradesh recorded a positivity rate of 7.48%, followed by Maharashtra (4.58%), Kerala (4.51%), Delhi (4.25%) and Karnataka (3.05%).

Cautioning against being complacent, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, following a meeting on Monday, stressed that testing should be ramped up, with a higher proportion of RT-PCR tests and whole genome sequencing of positive samples.

The average number of daily cases in the country rose to 966 in the week ending March 23 from 313 in the week ending March 3.

"Additionally, 24 districts in India are reporting more than 10% weekly positivity in the week ending March 24, 2023, while 43 districts are reporting weekly positivity between 5% and 10% in the same time," the Ministry said.

The Ministry said that 22 States and Union Territories were reporting daily tests per million (TPM) that were fewer than the national average.

V.K. Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog, highlighted the need for increased vigil in India due to the prevalence of new variants and the vaccine immunity across the country being currently at a modest level.

He urged the States to increase preparedness, including higher levels of RT-PCR tests and called for increasing the coverage of COVID-19 vaccine precaution dose among the population.

SC gives nod to hold local elections in Uttar Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Uttar Pradesh Government permission to hold local body elections on being informed that the State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission has completed its "contemporaneous rigorous empirical investigation" to identify backward classes who deserve political representation in local bodies.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud recorded a submission by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Uttar Pradesh, that the election process would be set in motion with the issuance of poll notification in the next two days.

The apex court said an earlier Allahabad High Court order to conduct the elections without reserving seats for backward classes would now remain "subsumed" by Monday's order. "To hold elections without reservation... that would not be a satisfactory state of affairs," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

Heat action plans in India fail to identify vulnerable groups: study

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-level meeting earlier this month to review heatwave preparedness, a new report by the Centre for Policy Research on "How is India adapting to heatwaves?" indicates that the country is ill-prepared to face the heat.

The think tank analysed all the 37 heat action plans (HAPs) across 18 States, to evaluate how policy action is keeping up with the warming weather in India, and found that most plans are not built for local contexts. It found that nearly all of them fail to identify and target vulnerable groups, and are underfunded with weak legal foundations and are insufficiently transparent.

Extreme heat poses an unprecedented challenge to health and productivity, cautioned the centre adding that heatwaves (prolonged periods of extreme heat) have increased in frequency in recent decades due to climate change.

Landmark heatwaves (1998, 2002, 2010, 2015, 2022) have each led to large death tolls (according to government estimates) and extensive economic damage by reducing labour productivity and affecting water availability, agriculture, and energy systems.

Sweltering state: Extreme heat poses an unprecedented challenge to health and productivity. FILE PHOTO

Governments across India at the State, district, and municipal levels have responded by creating heat action plans (HAPs), which prescribe a variety of preparatory activities and post-heatwave response measures across government departments to decrease the impact of heatwaves.

The current report analysed 37 heat action plans at the city (nine), district (13) and State (15) levels across 18 States.

The report states that only two HAPs carry out and present vulnerability assessments (systematic studies to locate where the people most likely to be affected are in a city, district, or State).

While most HAPs list broad categories of vulnerable groups (elderly, outdoor workers, pregnant women) and the list of solutions, they do not focus on these groups.

Additionally, only three of the 37 HAPs identify funding sources and eight HAPs ask implementing departments to self-allocate resources, indicating a serious funding constraint.

None of the HAPs reviewed indicate the legal sources of their authority. This reduces bureaucratic incentives to prioritise and comply with the HAPs' instructions, said the report.

It said that there is no national repository of HAPs and very few HAPs are listed online. It is also unclear whether these HAPs are being updated periodically.

'Health issues'

"India has made considerable progress by creating several dozen heat action plans in the last decade. But our assessment reveals several gaps that must be filled in future plans. If we don't, India will suffer damaging economic losses due to decreasing labour productivity, sudden disruptions to agriculture, and unbearably hot cities as heatwaves become more frequent and intense," said Aditya Valiathan Pillai, associate fellow at the CPR and co-author of the report.

Without implementation-oriented HAPs, India's poorest will continue to suffer from extreme heat, paying with both their health and incomes," added Mr. Pillai.

Man on death row freed as he was minor during crime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday released a death row convict who spent more than 28 years in prison for the gruesome murder of five women and two children on realising that he was just over 12 years old at the time of the crime in 1994.

A Bench led by Justice Aniruddha Bose relied on the date of birth in the man's school certificate to find his age. Four other documents, which surfaced at various stages of trial, appeals and review of the case over the years, variously showed his age between 12 and 22. There was even an unresolved confusion over the man's name.

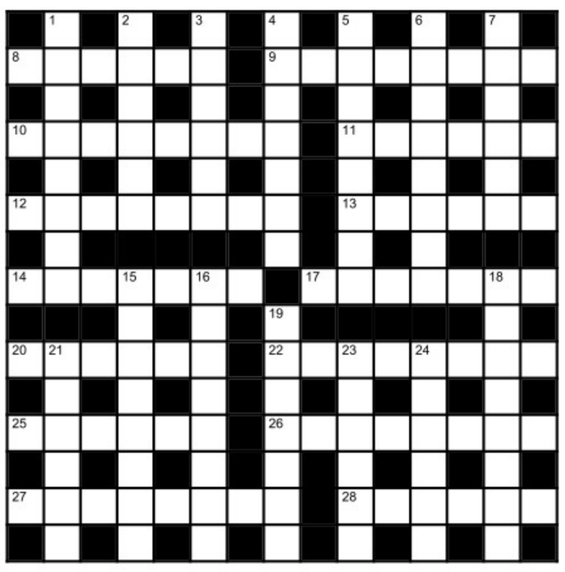
"His age at the time of commission of offence was 12 years and six months. Thus, he was a juvenile on the date of commission of offence for which he has been convicted," Justice Bose observed, allowing his appeal for release on the ground of juvenility. The man and two others had committed murder in Pune on August 26, 1994.

TH CROSSWORD + 13824

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Hypatia's hot menu is infection resistant (6)
9 Spooner's screen appeared showing solitaire, say (4,4)
10 Lad's network blocked by discontented ballad singer (3,5)
11 Avenger's cross protecting a chest (6)
12 Appeal for "Caught" before Sharma bats taking single (8)
13 Celestial object around a square drifting without energy (6)
14 Felt neglected (4,3)
17 Ridicules admitting small time clowns (7)
20 Drive a couple of minutes to visit that woman (6)
22 Stop next to a poor house (8)
25 Bikes languished near Sabha's entrance (6)
26 Opens one-time forgotten Women's Institute after renovation (8)
27 Film fan behind line for crunchy snack (8)
28 Basically Vedic Indian sages hailed nearly universal God (6)

Down

1 Drunkard had very little time before he nursed one drink (8)
2 Crows flying up from bored ruminants (6)
3 Troops with weapons to trade sides in kingdoms (6)
4 Disgrace Indian party under scrutiny (7)
5 Almost plagiarize quite complex analysis (8)
6 Complain after working with soldier climbing up or backward (8)
7 One lamp broken by a horned animal (6)
15 Damaged flat transferred without current unit (8)
16 Not expected to lose head right away in revolt (8)
18 Supporting Britain's king in settling down (8)
19 Kidnaps bachelor seen in American channels (7)
21 Hooded jacket shared by woman or a kid (6)
23 Regularly ignored, in fact, his view's original (6)
24 Close to Mahatma, South Africa followed that man for the principle of non-violence (6)

SUDOKU

				8	7			6
		2		3		1	4	
5	3						8	7
6				5	4	7		
		4	9	7				5
9	4						5	2
	7	3		9		4		
8			3	4				

No.SS5751 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	F	L	I	G	H	T	O	F	F	A	N	C	Y	
		E		E		H		L		R		R		
I	N	G	O	T		R	O	O	T	C	A	U	S	E
N		I		T		U		W		H		D		V
T	U	B	T	H	U	M	P	E	R		C	E	D	E
O		L		R				R		A		S		N
T	O	E	H	O	L	D		I	N	D	I	T	E	S
H				U		A		N		D				T
I	N	T	E	G	E	R		G	R	I	M	A	C	E
N		O		H		E				S		P		V
A	P	S	E		A	D	A	M	S	A	P	P	L	E
I		S		D		E		E		B		R		N
R	E	P	R	I	E	V	E	D		A	V	O	W	S
		O		R		I		I		B		V		
	S	T	E	E	P	L	E	C	H	A	S	E	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	3	7	5	2	8	4	1
4	2	1	8	6	3	9	7	5
7	5	8	1	9	4	3	6	2
1	4	9	2	3	6	7	5	8
8	3	7	5	1	9	6	2	4
5	6	2	4	8	7	1	3	9
2	8	4	6	7	1	5	9	3
9	1	6	3	4	5	2	8	7
3	7	5	9	2	8	4	1	6

FAITH

Dasaratha vs Dasagreeva

What is in a name? Everything. In ancient times, people named their children after their favourite deities. The oral tradition of narrating from scriptures and epics also contributed to this trend. As people listened to more religious discourses, some engaged in debates and many started delving deeper into the stories, seeking to understand beyond the obvious. The name Dasaratha, for example, signified a person who could effortlessly control ten chariots at one go. But was he only a great charioteer? Why then should God take avatar as Rama his son? Dasaratha was much more than a charioteer and a ruler of a vast empire. The Upanishads depict life as chariot and a chariot is each of the indriyas as stated in our philosophy, said Dr. Sudha Seshayyan in a discourse. As Dasaratha was in control of his senses, and ruled wisely, he was a master charioteer in the philosophic sense as well.

People also wonder at Dasagreeva (man of ten necks), also known as Ravana. Could a person have really lived with ten heads, they wonder. The ten heads are an indication of his bloated indriyas, Even today, when we come across a person who is egoistic and full of his self-worth, we say, "He is a swollen headed person," even though the physical attributes may not reflect the same. Our scriptures enjoin upon us to control our senses (and thereby our minds) and to lead a humble, sin-free life and our gurus likewise reiterate the desirable values. One may argue saying why give me senses and then ask me to control the same. The reason is simple. God dwells when the indriyas are under control. When the control is lost, divinity leaves – this is the essence of Rama's exile from Ayodhya.

EDINBURGH

Humza Yousaf set to become Scotland's youngest First Minister

AFP

Humza Yousaf on Monday won the race to become Scotland's new leader, its youngest and first from a minority ethnic background, charged with reviving a faltering independence movement after Nicola Sturgeon's long tenure. The 37-year-old is set to be sworn in as First Minister on Wednesday. AFP

HONG KONG

Flying under the radar for a while, Alibaba's Jack Ma returns to China

REUTERS

Alibaba founder Jack Ma has resurfaced in China after months of overseas travel, visiting a school in the city where his company is headquartered and discussed topics such as artificial intelligence. He had kept a low profile since November 2020, when he had publicly criticised China's regulators and financial systems. AP

NAYPYIDAW

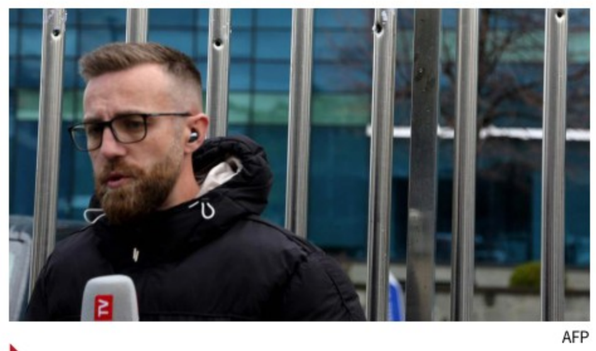
Myanmar junta says crackdown to continue, makes promise for polls

AP

Myanmar's junta chief, flanked by tanks and missile launchers, vowed no let up in a crackdown on opponents and said elections would be held, weeks after the military conceded it did not control enough territory to allow a vote. He was addressing service members attending the annual Armed Forces Day parade. AFP

TIRANA

Security guard killed in gun attack on Albania's largest TV channel



AFP

A security guard was killed in a gun attack on Albania's largest broadcaster early on Monday, with the country's premier calling the assault on the media outlet "worrying". The police gave no motive for the attack, saying "the investigation is ongoing". But they said the attackers used a Kalashnikov rifle. AFP

Under pressure from protesters, Netanyahu to delay judicial overhaul

Following the Prime Minister's decision, the head of Israel's largest trade union said it would call off a general strike that threatened to grind the economy to a halt; Netanyahu says he will consult his political opponents regarding the reform

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a delay in his judicial overhaul plan on Monday, saying he wanted to give time to seek a compromise over the contentious package with his political opponents.

Mr. Netanyahu made the announcement after two days of large protests against the plan.

"When there's an opportunity to avoid civil war through dialogue, I, as Prime Minister, am taking a timeout for dialogue," Mr. Netanyahu said in a nationally televised address.

Popular sentiment: Protesters waving Israeli flags during a demonstration outside the Knesset in Jerusalem on Monday. AFP

Striking a more conciliatory tone than in previous speeches, he said he was determined to pass a judicial reform but called for "an attempt to achieve broad consensus."

The centerpiece of the overhaul is a law that would give the governing coalition the final say over all judicial appointments. The government also seeks to pass laws that would would grant parliament the authority to overturn Supreme Court decisions and limit judicial review of laws.

Immediately after Mr. Netanyahu's statement, the head of the country's largest trade union said it would call off a general strike that threatened to grind Israel's economy to a halt.

Mr. Netanyahu spoke after tens of thousands of Israelis demonstrated outside parliament and workers launched a nationwide strike on Monday in a dramatic escalation of the mass protest movement aimed at halting his plan.

Departing flights from the main international airport were grounded.

Diplomats stay away from work

NEW DELHI
Israeli diplomats stationed in India went on a strike on Monday, the Embassy of Israel said in a statement to *The Hindu*. It came about when the Histadrut, Israel's largest labour union, instructed all government employees to strike work.

Woman shoots dead six including three children in Nashville school attack

Reuters

A 28-year-old woman shot dead three children and three adults at a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday, before the police killed her.

The woman had at least two semi-automatic rifles and a handgun, the police said.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department began receiving calls at 10.13 a.m. of a shooter at the Covenant School, which teaches children up to sixth grade. Officers could hear gunfire coming from the school's second floor, Don Aaron, a police spokesperson, told reporters.

Sad ending: Children from The Covenant School in Nashville taken to a reunification site after a shooting at their school on Monday. AP

Two officers from a five-member team shot at her and she was dead by 10:27 a.m..

The police later said the shooter was a 28-year-old woman from Nashville.

Deadly mass shootings have become commonplace in the U.S., but a female attacker is highly unusual. Only four of the 191 mass shootings since 1966 were carried out by a woman attacker.

Suicide blast near Foreign Ministry in Kabul kills 6

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

A suicide bomber struck on Monday near the Foreign Ministry in Kabul, killing at least six persons and wounding several. It was the second time this year that there has been an attack near the Ministry.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing but the regional affiliate of the Islamic State has increased attacks since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. IS has targeted Taliban officials and patrols, as well as members of the country's minority Shiites.

Three members of the Taliban security forces were among those wounded in the attack.

Sri Lanka clears global oil companies' entry into country's retail fuel market

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Monday decided to award licences to three global oil companies to operate in the domestic retail market as part of the government's efforts to restructure State-Owned Enterprises, including the loss-making Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC).

Confirming the development in a tweet, Sri Lanka's Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said the Cabinet had approved the awarding of licences to Sinopec; United Petroleum, Australia; and RM Parks, USA, in a collaboration with Shell, to enter the retail market in Sri Lanka. The three companies will each be allocated 150 dealer-operated fuel stations, currently operated by the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, and obtain 20-year licences to import, store, distribute and sell petroleum products in Sri Lanka. A further 50 fuel stations will be established at new locations by each company, the Minister said.

Sinopec; United Petroleum of Australia; and RM Parks of U.S.A. were granted licences

The move is aimed at diversifying Sri Lanka's retail fuel market that is currently a duopoly, with the state-owned CPC and Indian Oil Corporation subsidiary Lanka IOC, which controls a third of the market.

During last year's economic meltdown, Sri Lanka experienced acute fuel shortages, as the government ran out of dollars to import crude oil. Citizens waited in long queues outside petrol sheds for days together to access fuel, and it was following Indian assistance that supply was partially restored.

Subsequently, the government introduced a QR-code system rationing weekly fuel sales to consumers. Further, in May last year, Sri Lanka raised petrol prices by 24.3% and diesel by 38.4%, a record hike that in turn led to a rapid increase in costs of essentials.

Indian delegation

Meanwhile, an official delegation from India led by Pankaj Jain, Secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, held talks with President Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo on Saturday. "The delegation led by @Secretary_MoPNG called on President H.E @RW_UNP and briefed him on developments in jointly-identified priority areas for collaboration in energy sector. The President provided his guidance and insights on early implementation of these initiatives," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a tweet.

The officials also visited Trincomalee in the Eastern Province, where Lanka IOC, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Government of Sri Lanka have agreed to jointly develop World War II-era oil tanks. India has pledged to help Sri Lanka emerge a "regional petroleum hub".

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-06
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PR) SR-I, POCKET-D-7,
ROHINI SECTOR-6, NEW DELHI-110085 Email:- eepsr11@gmail.com

Press Note **NIT No. 08(2022-23)/EE(PR)SR-I**

Item no	Name of work	Amount put to tender in Rs.	E/Money (EMD) in Rs.	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of release of tender/Tender ID	Last date / time of receipt of tender
1	Providing and Laying Sewer line work in Garhi Rindhala village in Mundka AC	7,54,80,418/-	15,09,608/-	Rs. 1500/-	Dated 22.03.2023 2023_DJB_238748_1	13.04.2023 upto 3:15 PM
2	Providing and Laying Sewer line work in 1 nos U/A colonies and 2 no. villages in Jaunti and Tatesar village in Mundka AC	26,83,08,268/-	36,83,083/-	Rs. 1500/-	Dated 22.03.2023 2023_DJB_238748_2	13.04.2023 upto 3:15 PM

Further all the details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(Er. V.P. Sharma)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 580(2022-23) **EE(PR)SR-I**

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/540/2022 Date : 27.03.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement Drugs for Anemia Mukth Bharat for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/IFA/RC/2023/006 dtd. 27/03/2023	6

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 10.04.2023, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 17.04.2023 11.00 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

Macron holds crisis meeting as more protests loom in France

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron summoned government Ministers for a crisis meeting on Monday, as tensions ran high a day before another major round of strikes against his pension reforms.

Unions have called for a big day of action on Tuesday, the 10th such mobilisation since protests started in mid-January.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, meanwhile, said that while there was no plan to drop the legislation, she was ready for fresh dialogue with unions.

Starting Monday, Ms. Borne has scheduled talks over three weeks, including with members of Parliament, parties, local authorities and unions.

Ms. Borne presented the plan for consultations to the President at Monday's meeting and was then expected to take it to Mr. Macron's allies and Cabinet members

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1206/04/2021 / 9132, dated : 23.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Improvement of Surge Protection embankment-cum-Coastal Road, Phase-B (Balance Work) at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha (S3 & S4)
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.480.44 Lakh & Rs.1143.72 Lakh.
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) & 04 (Four) Calendar months.
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-178/2021-22	31.03.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	20.04.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

CAD-5290 Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-14003/11/0340/2223

FISHERIES & ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
GOVT. OF ODISHA
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Website: https://odishafisheries.nic.in , https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in & tendersodisha.gov.in ; Phone : 0671-2414061,
Email:director.odifish@gmail.com

2nd Corrigendum Notice to the RFP No.3486, dtd.01.03.2023

No. 5073 / Date : 27.03.2023

In referring to the RFP No. 3486, dtd. 01.03.2023 and 1st Corrigendum Notice No. 4495, dtd. 18/03/2023 for Selection of a Media Consulting Agency for IEC Strategy and Creative Productions, the 2nd corrigendum has been webhosted and noticed in the department website and notice for wide circulation. The bidder may visit the website **https://odishafisheries.nic.in, https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in & tendersodisha.gov.in** and download the document for reference.

Sd/-
Director of Fisheries

M-93: OIPR-06030/11/0030/2223

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Request For Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency Providing Pre-Authorization & Claim Management Services for Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY) & Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and other similar schemes on Outsource basis for PCMC Hospitals Pimpri, Pune-18

TENDER NO.15/2022-23

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) invites Request for Proposal from prospective Applicant for claim settlement and management work **for period 3 year.**

The Selected Applicant should bring its own computers/ laptops and associated office essentials for undertaking the scope of work under this RFP.

The Successful Applicant for the project will be selected based on the "Lowest Cost Selection" (LCS) for undertaking the project.

More details about the bid submission procedure, Applicant experience and the selection methodology are available in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document. Interested Applicants are requested to download the RFP document published on **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from **26/03/2023.** The last date for bid submission is **12/04/2023 by 3 p.m.** The cost of RFP document is Rs.16,800/- (Rupees Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only).

Contact Person: Dr. Laxman Gophane, Head of Medical Department, PCMC Main Building, Mumbai – Pune Road, Pimpri, Pune- 411 018, Maharashtra State.

Telephone nos. +91 (20) 67333333, 67331120, Fax: +91 (20) 2742 5600, 67330000 for any further information/ clarifications.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri - 411018

Advt.No. 509
Date : 27/03/2023

INBRIEF

TVS Motor rolls out seven new products in Ghana

TVS Motor Co. Ltd. said it had unveiled seven new products in Ghana, which include Bebek (TVS Neo NX), 3 variants of HLX series (HLX 125, HLX 150 & HLX 150X), TVS Apache 180, and three-wheeler TVS King series (Deluxe & Deluxe Plus ISG). "With the launch of these new products, we aim to offer our customers a hassle-free experience, unmatched after-sales service, and affordable genuine spares," said Rahul Nayak, VP, International Business.

Ex-SEBI chief Sinha named NDTV independent director

Adani group-owned NDTV Ltd. said it had appointed former SEBI Chairman Upendra Kumar Sinha and Welspun India Ltd. CEO and MD Dipali Goenka as independent directors. The board has approved the appointments with immediate effect, according to a regulatory filing by the news broadcaster. Both of them have been appointed as Additional Directors in the capacity of Non-Executive Independent Directors with effect from March 27. PTI

Skincare firm Mamaearth's parent said to put IPO on hold

Indian skincare start-up Mamaearth has put its initial public offering (IPO) on hold because of weak market conditions, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said, a month after two other Indian firms also scrapped share sales. Mamaearth parent Honasa Consumer Ltd. filed documents for a $200-$300 million Initial Public Offering in December, through the issue of equity and an offer for sale, which could have valued the firm at up to $3 billion. REUTERS

SEBI set to regulate index providers

Govt. puts onus of regulating index providers on SEBI, amid concerns about the safety of investors' savings parked in funds linked to indices that have added or retained several Adani group stocks, despite their recent meltdown

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government has squarely put the onus of regulating the practices of market index providers on the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), amid concerns about the safety of passive investors' savings parked in funds linked to indices that have added or retained several Adani group stocks, despite their meltdown following the release of the Hindenburg Research report.

"The Parliament has entrusted SEBI with protecting investor interests, so it must do whatever it takes to meet that mandate and is moving to regulate index providers," a senior government official told *The Hindu*. "The government nominees on its board will place our concerns and views about regulating indices, but we cannot second-guess the regulator or intervene if some indices' reconstitution or other such issues crop up," the official added.

Ambit widens

Markets watchdog had put out a draft regulatory framework for index providers in December

- SEBI sees need for greater oversight of currently unregulated providers
- Need for regulatory oversight felt due to growing dominance of such providers amid 'proliferation' of index funds
- SEBI believes index firms can 'exercise discretion' resulting in exclusion/ inclusion of a stock from an index, and impact investor returns

Wednesday meeting

SEBI, whose board will meet on Wednesday, had stressed the need for greater oversight on currently unregulated index providers like NSE Indices (a National Stock Exchange subsidiary) and the Asia Index Pvt. Ltd. (a BSE joint venture with Dow Jones), citing their growing dominance due to the "proliferation" of index funds.

A draft regulatory framework for index providers mooted by the market watchdog in December had raised concerns about possible conflicts of interest that could arise in their governance.

These firms could "exercise discretion through changes in methodology resulting in exclusion or inclusion of a stock in the index or change in the weights of the constituent stocks" and their decisions can impact the volumes, liquidity and price of such stocks, as well as investors' returns from index funds, the market watchdog had cautioned.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	57,654	0.22
US Dollar	82.31	0.23
Gold	59,220	-0.38
Brent oil	76.87	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1723.05	-17.60
Adani Ports	629.10	-8.90
Apollo Hosp	4318.10	34.75
Asian Paints	2803.75	5.25
Axis Bank	833.35	-6.55
Bajaj Auto	3807.55	-20.35
Bajaj Finserv	1239.10	-1.55
Bajaj Finance	5593.05	-56.20
Bharti Airtel	761.75	-0.70
BPCL	344.85	-0.55
Britannia Ind	4214.80	14.85
Cipla	889.30	12.05
Coal India	208.40	-0.05
Divis Lab	2829.20	22.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4485.65	21.50
Eicher Motors	2885.55	-24.05
Grasim Ind	1630.95	36.65
HCL Tech	1051.50	-0.25
HDFC	2561.90	2.00
HDFC Bank	1567.45	6.80
HDFC Life	492.95	0.70
Hero MotoCorp	2308.60	-4.75
Hindalco	389.95	1.55
Hind Unilever	2499.00	18.20
ICICI Bank	848.70	-3.70
IndusInd Bank	1012.85	3.30
Infosys	1388.95	8.30
ITC	380.20	1.50
JSW Steel	658.85	1.05
Kotak Bank	1705.20	13.05
L&T	2154.00	-12.15
M&M	1137.90	-12.90
Maruti Suzuki	8278.35	35.45
NestleIndia	18891.00	-62.10
NTPC	171.25	-1.45
ONGC	150.25	0.85
PowerGrid Corp	220.10	-2.30
Reliance Ind	2237.55	34.25
SBI Life	1099.30	-12.90
State Bank	510.15	4.80
Sun Pharma	983.45	10.60
TataConsumerProduct	699.35	-3.00
Tata Motors	412.05	-4.45
Tata Steel	102.30	0.20
TCS	3122.30	1.80
Tech Mahindra	1103.00	1.05
Titan	2494.40	1.05
UltraTech Cement	7450.20	44.55
UPL	700.65	3.75
Wipro	361.25	-0.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.17	82.49
Euro	88.50	88.87
British Pound	100.84	101.24
Japanese Yen (100)	62.48	62.73
Chinese Yuan	11.94	11.99
Swiss Franc	89.71	90.08
Singapore Dollar	61.67	61.93
Canadian Dollar	59.88	60.12
Malaysian Ringitt	18.58	18.67
Australian Dollar	54.59	54.81

Source:Indian Bank

FM says 54 China FDI proposals pending

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As many as 54 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals pertaining to investors or beneficial owners from China and Hong Kong are pending decision with the government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha.

She also said there was no proposal to ease the restrictions on foreign investments from entities of countries which share a land border with India.

As per the amended FDI policy, such entities "or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the government route."

Nirmala Sitharaman

Also, a transfer of FDI ownership in an Indian entity, resulting in the beneficial ownership falling within the aforesaid jurisdiction(s), will also require Centre's approval, she said.

S&P expects RBI to increase rates that are 'already high'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has become more sensitive to the global cycle lately, in part due to rising commodity exports

S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained its 2023-24 GDP growth projection for India at 6%, but revised China's growth projection for calendar year 2023 to 5.5% from 4.8% and said this will help other economies in the Asia-Pacific region "dampen but not offset" the effects of slower growth in the U.S. and EU.

The rating major said it expects the Reserve Bank of India to raise "its already high" policy rates further due to a recent upside surprise on inflation. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee will convene on April 3 to review its stance amid calls from industry to pause rate hikes.

While India's economy is traditionally driven by domestic demand, S&P Global averred it had become more sensitive to the global cycle lately, "in part due to rising commodity exports; and its year-on-year GDP growth slowed to 4.4% in the fourth quarter [of calendar year 2022]".

The firm also flagged that "COVID-induced output losses in emerging market economies are likely to be permanent" with large gaps in market economies, particularly in India, the Philippines and Thailand", when one compares "actual GDP in 2022 with the size of the economy along the trajectory for current estimates of trend growth since 2019".

"India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation should moderate to 5% [from an average of 6.8% in 2022-23] in fiscal year 2024 (2023-24) but we also anticipate upside risks, including from weather-related factors," the firm said in a research note.

IT security event to impact revenue, says Sun Pharma

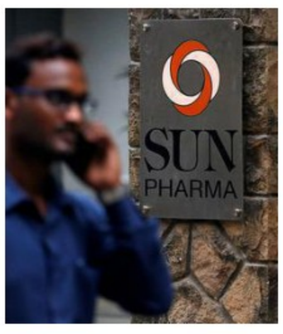
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sun Pharma has said the IT security incident that took place earlier this month would impact the revenues of some of its businesses.

As part of the containment measures, the company said it had 'proactively' isolated its network and initiated the recovery process.

"As a result of these measures, the company's business operations have been impacted," Sun Pharma said in a late night regulatory on March 26. "Consequently, revenues are expected to be reduced in some of our businesses."

The company also said it would incur expenses in connection with the incident and the remediation.



Currently, the company is unable to determine other potential adverse impacts of the incident.

Sun Pharma had reported the incident on March 2.

'Prompt steps'

The company said it 'promptly' took steps to contain and remediate the impact of the IT security incident, including staff containment and eradication protocols to mitigate the threat and additional measures to ensure the integrity of its systems' infrastructure and data.

These measures are underway as the company utilises global cybersecurity experts and enhanced security measures to address and mitigate the impact of the incident, it added. A ransomware group has claimed responsibility for this incident.

In a filing on Monday, Sun Pharma Advanced Research Co. also said it may incur certain expenses in connection with the incident and the remediation process. Shares of the firm rose 1.15% to ₹983.95 on the BSE on Monday.

HDFC gets nod to raise ₹57,000 crore via NCDs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd. on Monday said its board has approved raising funds through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) in tranches aggregating to ₹57,000 crore.

The board has cleared issuance of unsecured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures under a Shelf Placement Memorandum, aggregating ₹57,000 crore, in various tranches, on a private placement basis, HDFC said in a filing.

This is in accordance with the approval granted by the shareholders of the HDFC at the 45th AGM held on June 30, 2022, it said. Besides, "the board has approved increase in the overall borrowing powers of the corporation from ₹6 lakh crore to ₹6.50 lakh crore, outstanding at any point of time and recommended the same for approval of the members of the corporation by way of postal ballot," HDFC said.

The decision was taken since the outstanding borrowings of HDFC as on date is approximately ₹5.70 lakh crore and it would need to borrow further for its business purposes till the effective date of merger.

Bajaj Electricals embarks on 'Bajaj 2.0' to boost growth

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Bajaj Electricals Ltd., the first company of the Bajaj Group founded more than 80 years ago, has embarked on 'Bajaj 2.0' to grow faster and become an aspirational brand, MD and CEO Anuj Poddar said in an interview.

"Now, we should outperform ourselves," he said. "In Horizon one, that is from 2020 to 2023, we solved a lot of legacy issues, and put all the necessary building blocks in place. The more exciting journey starts now."

"In Horizon two, that is from 2023 to 2026, we will chase progressive growth. We will hopefully grow much faster, create a lot more value," he said.

Anuj Poddar

Horizon three will begin from 2026 and the goals would be announced later.

Unlocking growth

The company is being demerged into two entities to chase focused growth.

The consumer business, which used to be one-third (in size) of the company prior to 2019, has now grown to 80% while the EPC has reduced to 20%.

"When I took over, the debt-equity ratio was about 2:1. We had ₹2,000 crore of debt and cash flow continued to be negative. As of March 22, we went debt-free," he added.

"We are getting our consumer business back on track and focusing on profitability, improving cash flow. We have changed the whole culture of the workplace. We have now built a very strong team of capable and experienced professionals," he said.

Three associate or subsidiary firms viz. Starlite Lighting, Hind Lamps, and Nirlep Appliances, have been consolidated into the consumer unit.

CCI clears JM Baxi Ports deal with HLAG

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding of JM Baxi Ports and Logistics Ltd. by Germany's HLAG.

The acquisition would be done by HL Terminal Holding B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hapag Lloyd Aktiengesellschaft.

Separately, the CCI has given its nod for the acquisition of share capital of NSPIRA Management Services Pvt. Ltd. by three individuals – Puneet Kothapa, Ponguru Sindhura and Ponguru Sharani.

China's industrial profits slump as COVID pain lingers

Reuters
BEIJING

Profits at industrial firms in China declined 22.9% in the first two months of 2023 from the year before, official data showed on Monday, as the factory sector struggles to claw its way out of the slump caused by COVID-related disruptions.

The contraction followed a 4% fall in industrial profits for the whole of 2022, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed, pointing to a downbeat start to the year for factories at large.

Industrial profit numbers cover firms with annual revenues of at least 20 million yuan ($2.91 million) from their main operations. The Monday data follows a flurry of economic indicators that show an uneven road to recovery from a bruising three-year battle against the pandemic.

Factory output growth accelerated to 2.4% in January-February, data showed earlier this month.

While retail sales swung back to growth, property investment continued to decline despite robust government support aimed at reviving the ailing housing market. Beijing is seeking to get the economy back on a recovery track and set a modest growth target of 5% for this year at this month's annual parliamentary gathering.

China's central bank this month unexpectedly cut the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves for the first time this year to help support the economic recovery.

Combined January and February data are published for most economic indicators to flatten out distortions from the shifting timing of the Lunar New Year.

RJio unveils 'backup broadband' ahead of IPL

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio announced on on Monday that it would introduce a "backup broadband" plan for homes with 'shaky' WiFi connections.

The plans are to start from ₹198 a month (without GST), with an option for daily top-ups or a monthly flat fee to increase the speed from the basic 10 Mbps bandwidth, the company said.

The move comes as Reliance Jio gears up for the Indian Premier League (IPL); the company has the rights to stream the cricketing tournament in India.

MFs reopen overseas funds for capital gains benefit

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

From April, capital gains earned from international funds will be considered as short-term gains

Mutual fund houses are reopening their international funds for investment due to the potential loss of long-term capital gains tax benefits if investments are made after March.

Edelweiss has reopened seven of its international funds for investment. The fund house had suspended fresh investments in these schemes in February as it was closer to the threshold limit set for each mutual fund by the Association of Mutual Funds in India. It will be open for investment till March-end, it said.

Similarly, Mirae Asset Investment Managers has opened subscription in lump-sum manner of its three international ETFs and three Fund of Funds based on these ETFs from Monday.

Siddharth Srivastava, Head (ETF Product), Mirae Asset Investment Managers, said since the fund house has limited room for fresh inflows, these funds are likely to get closed again for subscription in order to comply with the current regulatory limit and applicable guidelines for the overseas funds.

With the steady fall in the international markets and change in taxation rules from April 1, mutual funds left with some headroom want investors to take advantage of overseas investments.

From April, capital gains earned from international funds will be considered as short-term gains and taxed based on the investor's tax slab. As of now, short-term gains arising within three years from international funds are taxed at the investor's applicable tax slab, while long-term gains are taxed at either 10% or 20% depending on indexation benefits.

(The writer is with businessline)

APPEAL PAYS OFF

Indore pitch rating changed to 'below average', Motera 'average'

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has changed the pitch rating of Indore's Holkar Stadium — the venue for the third Test between India and Australia — to 'below average' from 'poor' following a BCCI appeal. The ICC also gave the Narendra Modi Stadium pitch in Ahmedabad, the venue for the fourth Test, an 'average' rating.

DRAWING FIRST BLOOD

Talukdar, Taskin help Bangladesh prevail over Ireland

Rony Talukdar hit his maiden half-century to help Bangladesh secure a 22-run win against Ireland by DLS method on Monday in the opener of a three-match Twenty20 International series.
The scores: Bangladesh 207/5 in 19.2 overs (Rony Talukdar 67, Liton Das 47) bt Ireland 81/5 in 8 overs (Taskin Ahmed 4/16).

SEASONED CAMPAIGNER

Sandeep replaces Prasidh at Rajasthan Royals this season

Seamer Sandeep Sharma will represent Rajasthan Royals this season after being signed as a replacement for Prasidh Krishna. Picked for his base price of ₹50 lakh, Sandeep is one of the most senior bowlers in the tournament with over 100 wickets and 10 seasons of experience under his belt.

IN CRUISE MODE

Sabalenka crushes Bouzkova, marches into last 16

World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka cruised into the last-16 of the Miami Open on Sunday overwhelming Belarussian Marie Bouzkova 6-1, 6-2. Meanwhile, former US Open winner Bianca Andreescu oozed confidence as she enjoyed a 6-4, 6-4 win over American Sofia Kenin. Andreescu has so far g beaten Emma Raducanu and Maria Sakkari.

Women's cricket has arrived in India in a blaze of glory, raising ripples around the globe!

The performances and high-intensity contests as well as the immense support from enthusiasts justify demands for a league along the lines of the IPL

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

The Women's Premier League promised much. It delivered more!

The inaugural edition of the WPL, which concluded at the Brabourne Stadium here on Sunday, will forever be remembered fondly. The tournament proved that women's cricket has finally arrived in India in its full glory. Its ripples will be felt across the cricketing globe.

For several years, women cricketers, not just from India but countries such as Australia, England and New Zealand had been crying for an IPL-like league. These past three weeks justified their demand.

Celebration time: Mumbai Indians players savour the moment they entered the record books as the maiden WPL winner. EMMANUAL YOGINI

High-quality cricket

The quality of cricket on display was excellent. As was the support from the fans of Mumbai: a full house witnessed the final and there were bigger crowds for some of the matches in Navi Mumbai, at the D.Y. Patil Stadium.

The WPL has created new fans. This correspondent met some women who had never followed women's cricket before but now are fans of cricketers like Sophie Devine and Harleen Deol.

Devine played the most spectacular knock of the league – 99 off 36 balls against Gujarat Giants – but her team, Royal Challengers Bangalore, was the one that disappointed the most (so what is new, you may ask, given the men's team's history). Led by Smriti Mandhana, it was the most star-studded side at the WPL, but its chances were virtually over after it lost all its first five games.

Strongest side

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, won all its first five games. It was clear that it was the strongest side on view: it had depth and the team was replete with quality all-rounders.

But, Delhi Capitals emerged as a major threat, and it even finished ahead of MI on better net run-rate, and earned a direct ticket to the final. MI had to come through the Eliminator, in which Nat Sciver-Brunt's brilliant innings proved the difference against UP Warriorz. The England all-rounder played another match-winning innings in the final.

That meant Meg Lanning, the serial-winning-captain of Australia, had to settle for the runner-up spot as Capitals skipper. The tables had turned: her opposite number Harmanpreet Kaur had been at the receiving end as India captain at the T20 World Cup and, before that, the Commonwealth Games.

The WPL threw up new stars for India, such as Saika Ishaque, Shreyanka Patil and Kanika Ahuja. Shining bright were young stars from overseas too, like Issy Wong, Alice Capsey and Tara Norris, the American who showed what the WPL could do for Associate nations.

Making an impression

BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Meg Lanning (DC)	9	**345**	72	139.11	2
Nat Sciver-Brunt (MI)	10	**332**	72*	140.08	3
Tahlia McGrath (UPW)	8	**302**	90*	158.11	4
Harmanpreet Kaur (MI)	9	**281**	65	135.09	3
Hayley Matthews (MI)	10	**271**	77*	126.04	1

BOWLING	M	Wkts	BBI	Econ	3W
Hayley Matthews (MI)	10	**16**	3/5	5.94	4
Sophie Ecclestone (UPW)	9	**16**	4/13	6.61	2
Amelia Kerr (MI)	10	**15**	3/22	6.45	1
Issy Wong (MI)	10	**15**	4/15	6.46	3
Saika Ishaque (MI)	10	**15**	4/11	7.00	3

SOURCE: WPLT20.COM

'I was waiting for such a moment for a long time'

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

It was a bit like the Lionel Messi moment. Harmanpreet looked happily at the shining trophy beside her.

She was smiling most of the time as she addressed the media after finally winning a major trophy – the WPL.

"I was waiting for such a moment for a long time," she said a little after leading Mumbai Indians to the title in the inaugural edition of the WPL. "As a captain, I am winning something which is so important for women's cricket."

What did she feel when Shikha Pandey and Radha Yadav staged that stunning rearguard act for Delhi Capitals with their 52-run stand off 24 balls for the unfinished last wicket?

"I actually was very happy with the way they were batting," Harmanpreet said, smiling. "I have always wanted Radha to hit sixes and not take singles. She should leave that job to the others. I was happy when she hit those sixes at the end. Even after the match I spoke to her and said I wanted to see the same batting when she joined the Indian team."

She also praised Shikha. "Shikha was bowling brilliantly throughout the tournament," she said.

2017 WC semifinal shaped the way we play ODIs: Healy

P. K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Alyssa Healy has a warm, hearty smile, but with a bat in her hands, she is ruthlessly destructive. At the WPL she struck 96 not out (47b) out of UP Warriorz's total of 139 for no wicket against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

She enjoyed leading the team, too. "We have a coach who is English, captain who is Australian and we are playing in an Indian league; to have been able to pull them together is great," Healy told *The Hindu*.

In the meantime, she was also trying to catch the action from the India-Australia ODI series. Her husband, Mitchell Starc, had a good time in what was a successful series for Australia. "He really did well and the boys did a great job," said the wicketkeeper-opener.

She has another famous cricketer in the family. Former Australia wicketkeeper Ian Healy is her uncle.

"I don't get as much help from him as everybody thinks, as I didn't grow up in Queensland," she said.

Allysa Healy. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Turning point

Looking back to the Women's World Cup of 2017, in the semifinal which Australia lost to India, or rather to an incredible knock from Harmanpreet Kaur, she said it was a turning point for her and the Australian team.

"That changed the Australian group as a team and shaped the way we wanted to play ODI cricket" she said. "That was a remarkable innings from her and it will stand out for a long time."

In coach Pandit Kolkata Knight Riders has the right man to deal with the injury issues confronting it

IPL-16 COUNTDOWN

Y.B. Sarangi

The 2023 Indian Premier League season is yet to start, but Kolkata Knight Riders is already grappling with injury issues of some of its players.

The major concern is last edition's captain Shreyas Iyer's troublesome back. Ace Kiwi pacer Lockie Ferguson, who picked up a hamstring problem before New Zealand's home ODI series against Sri Lanka, is the other prominent player beset by an injury scare.

Awaiting clearance

While the franchise is waiting for the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI's) clearance for Shreyas, it will put Ferguson, who was traded from Gujarat Titans, through a medical assessment after his arrival in Kolkata.

A few other minor niggles to one or two players is not a major headache for the side, though.

The biggest plus for KKR this season is that it has someone of the calibre of Chandrakant Pandit – its first Indian head coach – at the helm.

A great motivator, Pandit, who successfully guided Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh to Ranji Trophy wins, is known for his man-management skills and handling of injured players.

Test of expertise

His expertise will be tested thoroughly as the schedule will demand back-to-back matches in the peak of summer and frequent travelling.

Because of the uncertainty over Shreyas' availability, the KKR think-tank had to hand over the captain's armband to Nitish Rana and also seek a replacement in the middle-order where Shreyas has been a key figure.

The team will primarily look at Nitish, Rinku Singh, Mandeep Singh and wicketkeeper-batter N. Jagadeesan to shoulder the responsibility.

All-rounder back-up

Even though Jagadeesan does not have much IPL experience, he has gained decent exposure in domestic T20 matches.

Seam-bowling all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer can boost the top-order batting and chip in with some overs when needed. Also long-serving West Indian all-rounder duo of Andre Russell and Sunil Narine will be keen to pitch in again.

Shardul Thakur and wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who were traded from Delhi Capitals and Titans, will be among key figures. It will be interesting to see how the team fits Afghanistan's Gurbaz into the playing XI.

The Bangladesh pair of Shakib Al Hasan and wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das will not be available due to their National commitments. Needless to say, it will reduce KKR's flexibility and options.

Several challenges

The two-time champion has New Zealander Tim Southee, Namibian all-rounder David Wiese, Umesh Yadav, Shardul and Ferguson in the pace department.

The spin bowling, however, looks weaker than before. While Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Anukul Roy will share the bulk of the responsibilities, Shakib will contribute whenever he can.

The challenges will be many for KKR and Pandit this season.

Uncanny knack

But the highest-paid Indian coach has a reputation for doing a superb job with limited resources and one will expect to see Pandit performing some kind of miracle in Knight Riders' colours in 2023.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Game-Changer

- Shardul Thakur, rich in experience with 75 IPL outings for teams like Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals, will be a vital cog in the Kolkata wheel
- With his knack of taking wickets at crucial junctures and making handy contributions with the bat down the order, he will add value to the side
- In Knight Riders' home games at Eden Gardens, where the pitch usually favours the seamers, he will be an effective weapon

Champion 2012, 2014

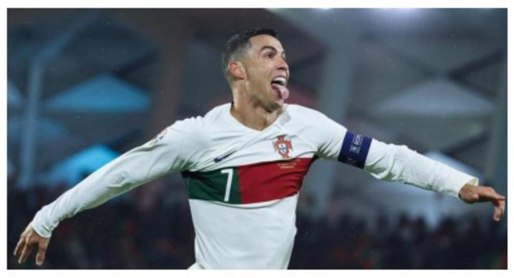
THE DUGOUT

Nitish Rana (Capt.), Anukul Roy, Rinku Singh, Kulwant Khejroliya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Varun Chakravarthy, Mandeep Singh, Vaibhav Arora, Venkatesh Iyer, Andre Russell, N. Jagadeesan, Umesh Yadav, Shardul Thakur, David Wiese, Sunil Narine, Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das and Shreyas Iyer (subject to clearance)

KNIGHT RIDERS' 2023 FIXTURES

April 1	vs. PBKS	3.30 p.m	Mohali
April 6	vs. RCB	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
April 9	vs. GT	3.30 p.m.	Ahmedabad
April 14	vs. SRH	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
April 16	vs. MI	3.30 p.m.	Mumbai
April 20	vs. DC	7.30 p.m.	Delhi
April 23	vs. CSK	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
April 26	vs. RCB	7.30 p.m	Bengaluru
April 29	vs. GT	3.30 p.m.	Kolkata
May 4	vs. SRH	7.30 p.m	Hyderabad
May 8	vs. PBKS	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
May 11	vs. RR	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
May 14	vs. CSK	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
May 20	vs. LSG	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata

INBRIEF



England goes to top; Ronaldo nets two as Portugal wins big

Harry Kane scored again as England made it two wins from two in Euro 2024 qualifying by beating Ukraine 2-0 at Wembley on Sunday, while Cristiano Ronaldo extended his international goals record to 122 with a double as Portugal thrashed Luxembourg 6-0.

The results: Group C: England 2 (Kane 37, Saka 40) bt Ukraine 0; Malta 0 lost to Italy 2 (Retegui 15, Pessina 27). **Group H:** Kazakhstan 3 (Zaynutdinov 73-pen, Tagybergen 86, Aymbetov 89) bt Denmark 2 (Hojlund 21, 35); Slovenia 2 (Sesko 56, Di Maio 60-og) bt San Marino 0; Northern Ireland 0 bt Finland 1 (Kallman 28). **Group J:** Liechtenstein 0 lost to Iceland 7 (Olafsson 3, Haraldsson 38, A. Gunnarsson 48, 68, 73-pen, A. Gudjohnsen 85, Ellertsson 87); Luxembourg 0 lost to Portugal 6 (Ronaldo 9, 31, Felix 15, B. Silva 18, Otavio 77, Leao 88); Slovakia 2 (Mak 13, Haraslin 40) bt Bosnia and Herzegovina 0.

Kavin and Mohsin pick up points in ARRC

Kavin Quintal (11th place) and Mohsin Paramban (13th) scored points for IDEMITSU Honda India Racing team in the second race of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship AP 250 class at the Chang International Circuit, Buriram, Thailand, on Sunday. At the end of the round, Honda's solo Indian team has earned nine points in the AP250cc class.

Bhavani Devi clinches gold in Sabre Weapon

C.A. Bhavani Devi won gold in the Sabre Weapon individual event in the 33rd Senior National Fencing Championship at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune. Tamil Nadu won gold in the Sabre Weapon team event.

Ultimate Table Tennis to be held in Pune from July 13

The fourth edition of Ultimate Table Tennis will be played in Pune from July 13 to 30. U Mumba TT, Puneri Paltan Table Tennis, Goa Challengers, Dabang Delhi TTC, RPSG Mavericks Kolkata and Bengaluru Smashers would be the franchises in the fray.

LIVE TELECAST

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka: 2nd ODI, Prime Video, 6.30 a.m.
NBA: Jio Cinema App, 8 a.m.
South Africa vs West Indies: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 9.30 p.m.
Euro 2024 European Qualifiers: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

'The sports science team, including mental trainer and physios, played a crucial role'

Chief coach Bhaskar acknowledges the role of those who worked behind the scene in the overwhelming success of the champion pugilists

BOXING WORLDS

Y.B. Sarangi
NEW DELHI

As the quartet of gold medal winning boxers sparkled in the glory of their World title wins, chief coach Bhaskar Bhatt acknowledged the support of mental trainers and physios, who worked behind the scene, in the overwhelming success.

Nitu Ghanghas (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) had to deal with the pressure of expectation and tough opponents to script India's best showing after 17 years.

"The athletes handled them well in spite of the pressure of boxing at home in one of the biggest fields. For example, one weight had 41 participants, another had 35. The sports science team, including the mental trainer and physios, played a very crucial role.

Golden girls: Nitu, Saweety, Lovlina and Nikhat sparkled at the championships. PTI

"After draining fights, they prepared the athletes mentally and physically for the next bouts," said Bhatt.

It was Nitu's new-found maturity, Nikhat's grit, Lovlina's focus and Saweety's inner strength that did the trick for India.

"Nitu is getting better in her long range game. She showed how tough she is mentally," said Bhatt.

Even Nitu herself accepts that she has developed the ability to adapt to situations as per her opponents and change her game-plan.

Nikhat, who got her career's first standing count in a final, was a story of self-belief as she competed in six fights in a different weight division to emerge triumphant.

"Nikhat's determination to win gold helped her take her second World title," said Bhatt. Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina's single-minded approach and a bit of luck in the final broke her 'jinx' of bronze medals in World championships.

"After the Olympics, Lovlina had a down phase. She has changed a lot , has become more religious and values her family more and is completely focused on boxing. She kept her patience in every bout," observed Bhatt.

Lovlina was honest that she could not apply her plan well in the final and underlined the need to get better.

For Saweety, it was a dream-come-true stuff as she bagged a gold nine years after winning a silver in Jeju City.

"Saweety is mentally very strong. She was ready to do everything inside the ring to emerge as the winner. Her confidence level propelled her to the gold," said Bhatt.

Chinese Taipei blanks India in Asia-Oceania under-14 tennis

Sports Bureau

The Indian boys were beaten 3-0 by Chinese Taipei in the opening league match of the Asia-Oceania World Junior under-14 boys tennis tournament in Kuching, Malaysia, on Monday.

Fifth-seeded India has been clubbed with fourth seed Hong Kong and New Zealand, apart from Taipei, in Group C.

The top two from each of the four groups will make the quarterfinals.

The results (league): Chinese Taipei bt India 3-0 (Kuan-Huai Mao bt Prakaash Sarran 6-4, 6-1; Hung-Jui Chen bt Shivtej Shirfule 6-2, 6-4; Jia-Ying Lee & Kuan-Huai Mao bt Rudra Batham & Shivtej 6-2, 6-1).

Fairytale comeback headlines Sreeja's historic title defence

NATIONAL TT

K. Keerthivasan
JAMMU

There were question marks on Sreeja Akula's form during the team events of the UTT-84th Senior National and interstate table tennis championships here, when she lost the first rubber in the semifinals and the crucial third rubber in the final of the team events.

The 24-year-old turned things around in a magnificent manner in the singles, and in the final against Sutirtha Mukherjee on Monday, Sreeja showed nerves of steel when it mattered most to win 9-11, 14-12, 11-7, 13-11, 6-11, 12-10 and become the first woman to defend the title after Mouma Das in 2006.

On the contrary, G. Sathiyan, the top seed, has been in excellent form throughout. He continued in the same vein in the singles as well. Against Harmeet Desai, the 29-year-old was ruthless as he scripted a 11-9, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5 victory to bag his second title in six final appearances.

Champions: Sreeja and Sathiyan. K. KEERTHIVASAN

Sathiyan was ecstatic. "The final scoreline was a surprise as I don't remember beating Harmeet in such an easy manner.

"My coach S. Raman told me from the first game when Harmeet took a 7-1 lead in the first game to stay focused and attack," he said.

The men's and women's singles winners received an identical amount of ₹2.75 lakh as prize money.

The results:
Men: Singles: Final: G. Sathiyan (PSPB) bt Harmeet Desai (PSPB) 11-9, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5; **Semifinals:** Sathiyan bt Manav Thakkar (PSPB) 13-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-1, 9-11, 11-5; Harmeet bt Manush Shah (RBI) 11-6, 3-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6. **Doubles (final):** Jeet Chandra & Ankur Bhattacharjee (WB) bt Mohammed Ali & Vansh Singhal (TS) 11-6, 11-7, 11-6. **Women: Singles: Final:** Sreeja Akula (RBI) bt Sutirtha Mukherjee (WB) 9-11, 14-12, 11-7, 13-11, 6-11, 12-10; **Semifinals:** Sutirtha bt Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) 12-10, 11-7, 11-5, 12-10; Sreeja bt Archana Kamath (PSPB) 11-9, 11-3, 11-6, 9-11, 5-11, 11-7. **Doubles:** Sreeja & Diya Chitale (RBI) bt Swastika Ghosh & Shruti Amrute (Mah) 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 14-12. **Mixed doubles (final):** Manav & Archana Kamath (PSPB) bt Ankur & Moumita Datta (WB) 11-5, 14-12, 11-3.

Bibisara leads by half-a-point after beating Vaishali

WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

R. Vaishali suffered a 44-move loss to Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva in the only decisive contest of the second round of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess on Monday.

The three other boards ended with the honours even and with two players getting byes, Bibisara (1.5 points) enjoys a half-point lead.

The results (second round):
Polina Shuvalova (1) drew with K. Humpy (1); D. Harika (1) drew with Zhu Jiner (Chn, 1).
R. Vaishali (0) lost to Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 1.5); Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE, 1) drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Geo, 1).
Nino Batsiashvili (Kaz, 0.5) and Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 0.5), bye.

Jinson makes a winning comeback

INDIAN GP-2

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Jinson Johnson showed no signs of rustiness in his first competitive race in nearly a year as he ran a perfectly paced race to clock 3:44.52s and win the 1500m in the Indian Grand Prix-2 here on Monday.

Mohammed Anas, who is also on a comeback trail, strode comfortably to win the men's 200m in 21.54s.

Archana Suseendran hogged the limelight in the women's section by completing the double.

The results: Men: 100m: 1. Sanjeet (Har) 10.65s, 2. Amiya Kumar Mallick (Odi) 10.66, 3. Hassan Saaid (Mal) 10.76; **200m:** 1. Mohammed Anas (Ker) 21.54s, 2. Hassan Saaid (Mal) 21.61, 3. S.K. Kaven (TN) 21.63. **400m:** 1. Mohammed Ajmal (Ker) 46.65s, 2. V. Nihal Joel (Kar) 47.24, 3. Rahul Ramesh Kadam (Mah) 47.26. **1500m:** 1. Jinson Johnson (Ker) 3.44.53s, 2. Rahul (Del) 3:47.80, 3. Prakash Babu (Mah) 3:48.57; **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Balkishan (Har) 8:39.84s, 2. Atul Poonia (Raj) 8:42.51s, 3. Sunil Jinabhai (Guj) 8:50.68s; **10,000m:** 1. Jagat Singh Gurjar (Del) 30:33.83s, 2. Kiran Maire (Mah) 30:33.14s, 3. Preetam Kumar (Del) 30:35.57s; **Long jump:** 1. Nirmal Sabu (Ker) 7.72m, 2. K.M. Sreekanth (Ker) 7.28m, 3. Aditya Kumar Singh (MP) 7.26m; **Triple jump:** 1. Eldhose Paul (Ker) 16.27m, 2. U. Karthik (Ker) 15.80, 3. Abdulla Aboobacker (Ker) 15.77; **Shot put:** 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 19.76m, 2. Karanveer Singh (Pun) 19.17, 3. Sahib Singh (Pun) 19.07.

Women: 100m: 1. Archana Suseendran (TN) 11.52s; 2. Hima Das (Asm) 11.74, 3. Dhaneshwari (Kar) 11.80; **200m:** 1. Archana Suseendran (TN) 23.21s, 2. Daneshwari (Kar) 24.13, 3. R. Anu (Ker) 24.33; **400m:** 1. Jyothika Sri (AP) 53.36s, 2. Aishwarya Kailash (Mah) 54.09, 3. Subha Venkatesan (TN) 54.61; **1500m:** 1. Chandana (Del) 4:20.81s, 32. Ankita (Jhar) 4;22.07s, 3. K.M. Disha (MP) 4:27.33.

100m hurdles: 1. Pranjali Dilip Patil (Mah) 13.84s, 2. Unnathi Bollanda (Kar) 13.96, 3. Sowmya Murugan (AP) 14.45; **Triple jump:** Nayana James (Ker) 13.22m; 2. Gayathri Sivakumar (Ker) 13.19, 3. Renu (Har) 12.83; **Pole vault:** 1. Malavika Ramesh (Ker) 3.10m, 2. Nagamme Baje (Ker) 3.00; 3. Chinchumol Mathew (Ker) 2.90; **Hammer:** 1. Rekha (Jhar) 53 75m, 2. K.M. Fatma (UP) 50.04, 3. Kessia Mariam Benny (Ker) 48.91.

Afghanistan pulls off a coup against Pakistan

On cloud nine: Afghanistan's first series win against a top-six nation is a definite shot in the arm for its players. FILE PHOTO

Agence France-Presse
SHARJAH

Afghanistan overcame late nerves in the closing overs to beat Pakistan by seven wickets in the second Twenty20 International here on Sunday and take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

Needing 22 from the last two overs, Najibullah Zadran and Mohammad Nabi hit a six each off Naseem Shah to reduce the target to five runs.

Zadran then hit the winning boundary off Zaman Khan's last over to chase down the 131-run target with a ball to spare.

This was Afghanistan's first bilateral T20I series against any of the top six teams – India, England, Pakistan, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Its previous T20I series wins have come against the West Indies and Bangladesh and it has also five in five against Zimbabwe.

The scores: Pakistan 130/6 in 20 overs (Imad Wasim 64 n.o., Shadab Khan 32) lost to Afghanistan 133/3 in 19.5 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 44, Ibrahim Zadran 38).

The Challenge golf tournament from today

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Challenge, presented by KGA, a golf tournament co-sanctioned by the Challenge Tour and the TATA Steel PGTI, will tee off at KGA here on Tuesday.

The $300,000 tournament is the second event to be played at KGA in the last two weeks. The field features 156 players, including 55 Indians.

Top stars
The leading Indian players in the field include Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi, Viraj Madappa, S. Chikkarangappa and current PGTI Order of Merit leader Om Prakash Chouhan, who won last week at KGA. The leading players from the Challenge Tour include Frenchman Ugo Coussaud, Scotsman Craig Howie and Italians Matteo Manassero and Lorenzo Scalise.

"We're delighted to be partnering with the Challenge Tour and the PGTI in launching The Challenge presented by KGA as part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations," Prithviraj Urs, KGA President, said.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Parikrama routs Bangalore Gunners

Parikrama FC blanked Bangalore Gunners FC 7-0 in the BDFA A-division football league here on Monday.

The results: South United FC 1 (Sanket Anil Salokhe 80+4) bt RWF FC 0; Parikrma FC 7 (Haris Rahman 7, 40, R. Tarun 14, Rifath 37, 58, Md. Arfas 48, 75) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 0; HAL FC 2 (Sujal Munda 45, S. Tejas 56) bt DYES FC 0; Income Tax 2 (M.U. Nimish Ganapathy 11, Anthony Vicky 40+1) bt AGORC FC 1 (Manju Nanjungud Shivananju 59).

BPCA's summer camp from April 3

Brijesh Patel Cricket Academy will conduct a summer camp from April 3 to May 12.

For details, contact: 9880043858 / 9901089630.

Travancore Cup hockey from April 15

Karnataka State Hockey Association will conduct the annual Travancore Cup hockey tournament from April 15 to 30 at the Hockey Stadium.

The competition is open to all hockey-playing clubs and institutions.

For details, contact: K. Krishnamurthy 9845278847 or 22277007.

KSHA's camp from April 1

Karnataka State Hockey Association will conduct a summer coaching camp for boys and girls below the age of 18 from April 1 to 30. For details, contact: Vinoba: 9480078549.

Murzin takes lead

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Aravindh Chithambaram and Neelash Saha drew in just 19 moves to slip to the joint second spot after 12-year-old Russian Volodar Murzin emerged as the leader with a perfect score after seven rounds of the Delhi International Open chess tournament here on Monday.

Murzin rode on his extra knight to a 66-move victory over Viani Antonio D'Cunha to become the first sole leader of the 10-round competition.

Aravindh, Saha, Michal Krasenkow (Poland), Marat Dzhumaev, Mukhiddin Madaminov (both Uzbekistan) and Luka Paichadze (Georgia) share the second spot with 6.5 points.

Leading results (seventh round): Aravindh Chithambaram (6.5) drew with Neelash Saha (6.5); Volodar Murzin (FIDE, 7) bt Viani Antonio D'Cunha (6); Levan Pantsulaia (Geo, 6) drew with Deepan Chakkravarthy (6); Mikhail Kobalia (FIDE, 5.5) lost to Marat Dzhumaev (Uzb, 6.5); Anuj Shrivatri (6) drew with Mikheil Mchedlishvili (Geo, 6); Vitaly Teterev (FIDE, 5.5) lost to Michal Kransenkow (Pol, 6.5); Lalit Babu (6) bt Apoorv Kamble (5).

History at hand: Anurag Thakur flips through the special hockey book brought out recently by *Sportstar* as the magazine's Editor Ayon Sengupta and CEO of *The Hindu* L.V. Navaneeth look on. R.V. MOORTHY

Thakur stresses on need to harness woman power

Success of WPL has opened the gates for many organisations that might be thinking about whether to start a league for women or not, says the Sports Minister

NATIONAL CONCLAVE

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday stressed on the need to promote and back women athletes in India during his keynote address at *Sportstar*'s National Sports Conclave in New Delhi on Monday.

"On March 10, we launched Khelo India 10 Ka Dum for empowering women through sports. Women's Day was on the 8th of March, but we couldn't launch that day due to Holi. We organised this across 50 cities in the country, and more than 1500 women participated in 10 sports. This is not a one-off initiative. "In the past 18 months, we have launched Khelo India leagues for women across sports and have seen tremendous success. I think the WPL (Women's Premier League) 2023 was extremely successful. It has opened the gates for many organisations that might be thinking about whether to start a league for women or not. There are a lot of takers for women athletes in the country," Thakur said.

Thakur also touched upon the Central Government's effort to ameliorate playing conditions in the country. "PM (Narendra) Modi is a sports lover. Since the Khelo India scheme was launched in 2017, we have developed a three-tier pyramid structure for coaching and training athletes in the country.

"We have close to 7998 athletes training in about 34 disciplines at our centres. And we provide support to 3000 Khelo India athletes. These athletes are chosen by the talent identification and development committee.

"The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has seen a manifold increase in its budget. From a mere ₹466 crore in 2004-2005, we have 3397.32 crore in the financial year 2023-2024. We have sanctioned more than 3000 crore rupees in the past five years for 280+ infrastructure projects in 36 States wherein we are building multi-purpose sports complexes, indoor halls, synthetic athletic tracks, hockey astro turfs and mini stadiums, etc.."

Thakur also lauded *Sportstar* for being at the forefront of multi-sport coverage for more than four decades. "We have a magazine that began as a print-only multi-sport back in 1978, and it has evolved to still be India's premium sporting magazine. I still remember my playing days when I used to buy the *Sportstar* every week, and the major attraction for me at that time was the middle page which had a glossy poster kind of paper that I used to take out and put up on my cupboard," he said.

The Conclave was held in association with Hero We Care, a Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative, ONGC, Jain University, Vajiram & Ravi, Institute for IAS Examination, Cric HQ, Shiv, Naresh and News X.

Paris 2024 Olympics will be special for Indian sports, says Sreeshankar

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Long jumper M. Sreeshankar feels the Paris Olympics in 2024 is going to be very special, not just for Indian athletics but for sports in the country in general. He was speaking at the *Sportstar* National Sports Conclave in a panel titled 'Eyeing the Paris Podium'.

Rifle shooter Anjum Moudgil, hockey star Rani Rampal, Tokyo 2020 Paralympic badminton gold medallist Pramod Bhagat, and boxing World Champion Nikhat Zareen were also a part of the discussion.

"In an event like athletics, we didn't have any medals until 2020. But with Neeraj (Chopra) bhaiya removing that mental block with that gold medal in Tokyo, I am sure Paris 2024 will be something special for athletics and Indian sports," Sreeshankar, who also celebrated his birthday at the event by cutting a cake on stage, said.

Nikhat, yet to make her debut at the Summer Games, says it is now her ultimate dream. "I am mentally strong enough to tackle the challenge. I don't know whether I will continue boxing after Paris. So, I am working really hard," Nikhat said.

Joyous mood: Bhagat, Anjum, Rani, and Nikhat share a laugh after cutting a cake to celebrate Sreeshankar's, second from right, birthday. R.V. MOORTHY

The Indian shooting teamreturned empty-handed from Tokyo and Anjum, who had been a part of the squad, explained the reasons for the non-show.

Meanwhile, Rani reflected on the highs and lows of her Olympic journey.

Bhagat wished the para-shuttlers continue to receive the same support and adulation. "After 2020, the media started giving us attention. Things are changing though. When I started, things were very different. The people trust you to do good now. Our mindset now is that the support we get, we are going to return the faith. We are going to double our medal count of 19 last time."

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme, since its inception in 2014, has been providing valuable support to Indian sport, said Sandip Pradhan, DG, Sports Authority of India.

"We have clubbed the initiatives of TOPS with funding under the Sports Federations," Pradhan said in reply to a question.

You see... SAI's DG Sandeep Pradhan makes a point as the moderator Vijay Lokapally looks on. R.V. MOORTHY

Speaking of the assistance provided to P.V. Sindhu, he said, "We provided 69 international exposures, foreign coach, gym and a trainer for her."

Also, besides facilitating two foreign coaches,Neeraj (Chopra) has been able to train "sometimes in the USA, sometimes in the U.K., South Africa, and now Turkey. That is possible because of TOPS," he said.

On the plans for the 2024 Olympics, Pradhan said, "Our plans are already in place. We have a Target Olympic Podium committee, and sub-committees in place to analyse individuals. At present we have around 98 athletes, including 40 para-athletes, preparing for 2024. We have another 168 athletes for 2028."

Pradhan also said that SAI was trying to create a synergy between the different entities involved in sport in India – TOPS, the federations and NGOs.

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Star valuation has undergone changes, says Harbhajan

'Opportunities are coming after our playing careers and IPL has brought on much of that; a lot of us have work because of it at multiple levels'

Tuned in: Harbhajan, right, airs his views as Piyush Pandey, Atit Mehta, Bharatendu Kabi and Suresh Balakrishna, CRO, *The Hindu*, listen with rapt attention. R.V. MOORTHY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League, which enters its 16th year in 2023, has had a significant impact, inspiring leagues around the world and attracting the best international talent.

It has become a brand that not only contributes to Indian cricket's financial health but also takes care of the financial well-being of all stakeholders.

"A lot of things have changed since my early playing days. Opportunities are coming after our playing careers and IPL has brought on much of that.

"A lot of us have work because of it [IPL] at multiple levels and in many roles," former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh said at a panel discussion 'The power of sports and its superstars in brand building' at *Sportstar's* National Conclave here on Monday.

"Many of my seniors, Anil Kumble for example, did not get as recognised as Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar or Rahul Dravid. Nevertheless, I got several endorsements. Today, Jasprit Bumrah is as big as Virat Kohli."

Piyush Pandey, chairman of Global Creative & Executive Chairman India, Ogilvy, had a caveat for brands: "Don't be under the misconception that you can use a cricketer or sportsperson and succeed."

Need to adapt

Atit Mehta, BYJU'S head of marketing, weighed in on why major brands have now also tapped into talent outside cricket.

"India is changing, and we need to be able to adapt to it," he said.

Bharatendu Kabi, head of corporate communication and CSR at Hero MotoCorp Ltd, emphasised the need to adopt a top-down approach to build a brand.

Vision, skills mandatory to run sport: Sumariwalla

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Athletics Federation of India president Adille Sumariwalla on Monday pointed out how the change in approach in running athletics in India since his appointment as the head of the federation has brought dividends.

He said a lot of effort and time went into making a hero in athletics.

"Somebody running a federation should have passion for sport, should be able to give time, and have patience. He needs vision and organisational skills. Anybody who fits into that can run a federation – it need not be a politician, a sportsperson, or a bureaucrat," Sumariwalla said in a discussion on sports federations at the *Sportstar* National Sports Conclave.

Revealing how he changed the functioning of the athletics federation, he said, an ecosystem needed to be created. Focus on grassroots on the one hand and elite on the other. "If you don't have elite athletes, you don't have somebody to look up to," he said.

"We shortlisted events and brought in foreign coaches. The reason being that their knowledge of sports science, sports medicine, etc, is far better than that of our coaches," he said.

Paralympian Deepa Malik, now president of the Paralympic Committee of India, said it took time for her to get acceptance as leader of the committee. "My focus was to keep it athlete-centric. As an athlete, I knew where the shoe pinched, so I have been continuously working on that," she said.

Rahul Bose, president of the Rugby Federation of India, said love for the players is a dimension of sports administration that is not often talked about.

Running the show: Adille Sumariwalla, Rahul Bose, Kalyan Chaubey and Deepa Malik gave insight into sports administration. R.V. MOORTHY

Holding centrestage

Champions both! Mallika Nadda, chairperson, Special Olympic Bharat, and Tahsin Zahid, CEO Sports, Physical Education NSDC, at the Conclave. *Right:* Sarita presents the Aces award to Nikhat. R.V. MOORTHY

'Leagues contribute to the growth of sporting ecosystems'

Making a point: Vita Dani, Anupam Goswami, Jose Antonio Cachaza Pereiro and Joy Bhattacharjya spoke about 'Balancing on- and off-field success in sports leagues-. R.V. MOORTHY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Volleyball League CEO Joy Bhattacharjya emphasised the significance of leagues in the growth of sporting ecosystems.

"Volleyball was beset by several problems, mainly organisational, in the past two to three decades. Indian volleyball was hugely successful at one point. But, for whatever reasons, the organisation let us down. The League (PVL) has made a tangible difference," he said at a panel discussion titled 'Balancing on and off field success in sports leagues' at Sportstar's National Sports Conclave here on Monday.

"What happens when we have a league is that you have heroes... there are volleyball players who are household names again because people are seeing them," he added.

Pro Kabaddi League CEO Anupam Goswami spoke about kabaddi's gains, and how it has quickly become one of the most popular spectator sports in India thanks to the PKL. "Today a kabaddi player can proudly say he is a kabaddi player," he said.

Bhattacharjya echoed Goswami's sentiments. "They (fans) want to be a (Sachin) Tendulkar or Dilip Tirkey. So, with a League in place, you essentially say 'here are some heroes you can follow in your sport."

Jose Antonio Cachaza, managing director, La Liga India, weighed in on the business demands associated with foreign sports leagues.

Vita Dani, co-owner of Chennaiyin FC and Ultimate Table Tennis chairperson, threw light on the challenges of running a domestic league in two different sports.

"I think they operate at two different scales (UTT and CFC). We at UTT have tried to keep our costs very low. As far as football goes, the scale is much larger. I am not trying to compare, but the talent we have been able to nurture is phenomenal," Dani said.